

Servicemen barred from Olympic teams

Servicemen and servicewomen hoping to compete at the Olympic Games were told last night that the Government will not grant them special leave to go to Moscow. A ban on team events for British servicemen is likely to end the chance of victory for the all-service pentathlon team.

No special leave for civil servants

Michael Hatfield, the Government last night rejected the chances of civil servants and service personnel competing in the Olympics in Moscow by announcing that no special leave would be granted for those selected for the British Olympic Association. The Defence Department is also rejecting the chances of servicemen and servicewomen competing in the Olympics in Moscow by announcing that no special leave would be granted for those selected for the British Olympic Association.

Defending the decision, Mr Peter Blaker, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said in a radio interview that the Government took the view that it would be inconsistent to grant special leave to those selected for the British Olympic Association. He said that the Government was not prepared to grant special leave to those selected for the British Olympic Association.

Steelmen unmoved by new pay offer

The British Steel Corporation last night put a new pay offer to union leaders of 140,000 striking steelmen, but it was not expected to settle the industry's national shutdown, which is now in its eleventh week. On the third day of negotiations aimed at ending the dispute, BSC management and the 10-member trade union consortium agreed a joint document, covering job flexibility, demanning, and productivity bargaining.

But I understand that this "diluted" version of the corporation's original set of proposals was valued at only 9 per cent in terms of wage rises, or 1 per cent lower than the "final offer" put to the unions more than a month ago. A 4.4 per cent payment for three months, to get local productivity schemes off the ground, remains in the corporation package offer; that puts the value of the draft deal as a whole at 13.4 per cent.

Union leaders adjourned to discuss the offer after seven hours of talks. Their first response was to argue that British Steel had not put enough money on the table, and that the strike should go on. BSC management was also considering its next move. If the latest offer is formally rejected, the Corporation may go ahead with a second ballot of the workforce, over the heads of union leaders, in an attempt to get its employees to approve the package.



A policeman gripping a man during the clash between 1,000 steel strikers and 700 police outside Hadfields, the private steel works in Sheffield, south Yorkshire.

Marching strikers clash with police in protest over conduct of talks

From Ronald Kershaw Sheffield More than 1,000 steel strikers and 700 police were involved in clashes in Sheffield yesterday as the strikers demonstrated against the return to work in the private steel works. The strikers were protesting over the conduct of talks with the British Steel Corporation. The strikers were protesting over the conduct of talks with the British Steel Corporation.

France blocks cheap European air fares

By Arthur Reed The British Airways plan to introduce cheaper fares into Europe received a severe setback yesterday when the French aviation authorities refused a proposal for a 20 single fare on the London-Paris route. The "Chunnel" fare was to have been introduced from April 1, the day from which British Airways, with Air France, is to restructure its service on the London-Paris route by sweeping away first-class fares.

Two Britons missing after tanker sinks

Las Palmas, March 12—Ships and a helicopter searched the Atlantic today for 30 people missing from the Spanish oil tanker Maria Alejandra, which exploded and sank off West Africa yesterday. Seven Spanish crewmen from the 122,500-ton ship were rescued, but maritime officials said there was only a faint chance that more survivors would be found in the sea off Mauritania. Six bodies were recovered today.

Moro men jailed

Turin, March 12—A Turin court has sentenced two suspects in the assassination of Aldo Moro, the former Prime Minister, to a total of six years in jail on preliminary arms possession charges. The two men are both members of the Red Brigades guerrilla organization.

Instant sunshine was never promised, Mrs Thatcher says

By George Clark Political Correspondent In a calm, but sombre mood, Mrs Margaret Thatcher gave a warning to the nation last night that the period of adjustment while Conservative economic policies are taking effect will be painful. "I am afraid some things will get worse before they get better," she said. But the Conservatives had never promised "instant sunshine". On the eve of the Southend, East, by-election, the Prime Minister used the whole of a television broadcast to have a "straight talk" to the nation, explaining that the things which people voted for in May, 1979, when they put the Conservatives into power were now happening. It must take time for the results of the "folly and neglect" of the Labour Government to be corrected.

In effect, she was asking the people who voted Conservative at Southend 10 months ago to continue backing the Government in a difficult operation which had already brought signs that "commonsense is breaking through". "We have to walk a tightrope between the need to face economic facts and the claims of common humanity," she said. "Almost everyone agrees on the need to cut public spending but human nature being what it is, we tend to want the cuts to fall where we personally are not affected."

Easter air strike threat at Luton

By David Felton Labour Reporter Air traffic controllers at several provincial airports have voted for a four-day strike over the Easter weekend which would cause chaos for holiday travellers. Controllers, members of the National and Local Government Officers Association (NALGO), who are based at Luton Airport, are among those backing strike action. Last Easter Luton handled about 35,000 passengers over the holiday period.

President Tito 'nearing end'

From Our Correspondent Belgrade, March 12 President Tito's condition worsened today with a further weakening of the heart and a new attack of pneumonia. Privately, officials were saying that it was now a question of only days or hours before his death. The highest Yugoslav leadership met yesterday, and agreed that in evidence during the President's illness, was a first priority.

Enough French on lamb and budget

France has said it would refuse to consider proposals during the EEC talks in Brussels to reduce British claims over the size of its contribution to the Community budget. The European Commission tried its own proposals for ending the dispute within a reasonable period. France also said that it did not yield anything to Britain in the dispute over lamb imports.

US move on Iran

Mr Cyrus Vance, the American Secretary of State, is to see Dr Khomeini, the United Nations Secretary-General, about the Iranian commission which has been set up to investigate the release of the hostages. The commission is to be headed by a high-ranking Iranian official. The commission is to be headed by a high-ranking Iranian official.

Mr Bush heavily defeated in South

President Carter and Mr Ronald Reagan won the Florida, Georgia and Alabama primaries with big margins. Mr Reagan inflicted an unexpected heavy defeat on Mr George Bush, his principal rival for the Republican nomination unless Mr Gerald Ford belatedly enters the race. Although Senator Kennedy fared badly in Florida, many Jews voted for him. A trend which could upset Mr Carter in New York if it continues. Page 8

Bonn easing curbs

West Germany is planning to scrap some of its exchange controls in the hope of attracting Arab oil money to the Deutsche mark. Regulations preventing non-residents from investing in German securities with less than four years' residence will be relaxed. Page 21

MPs attack BBC Welsh arson film

The BBC went ahead with last night's television film of people who claimed to be involved in arson attacks on Welsh holiday homes in spite of appeals by MPs. The decision, which was taken at top level, was described by Mr Leo Abse, Labour MP for Pontypool, as irresponsible. Page 3

Channel tunnel: EEC Transport Commissioner calls on Britain and France to reach a decision this year

Open government: Confidential report prepared for top civil servants says that a freedom of information Act could be tolerated "without too much difficulty". Page 6

The office check-up

Whether you own, lease or rent your offices, a thorough examination of your arrangements could be overdue. To be certain that you are making the most appropriate use of your resources and outgoings, contact a team like ours. They're specialists.

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HOME NEWS

Judge rejects Ladbroke's appeal for casino licences and speaks of 'death-bed repentance'

By Marcel Berlins

Ladbroke's, the leisure group, failed yesterday in its attempt to get back their licences to run three casinos in the West End of London, the Ladbroke Club, the Herford Club and the Park Lane Casino. The High Court dismissed their appeal against a crown court decision confirming that they were not "fit and proper persons" to hold casino licences.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court refused to quash a decision of a 13-hour negotiating session. Ladbroke's appeal was dismissed against a ruling by the South Westminster Gaming and Licensing magistrates that they were not "fit and proper persons" to run casinos.

Ladbroke's announced last night that they intended to appeal against the Divisional Court's decision.

Lord Widgery, the Lord Chief Justice, giving judgment on behalf of himself and Mr Justice Mars-Jones, said that a number of violations of the Gaming Act had been proved or admitted by Ladbroke's.

The included breaches of the rule forbidding people to gamble at casinos within 48 hours of applying for membership; substantial commissions being paid to agents introducing customers; using private detectives to take the car numbers of customers of rival casinos and tracing their identities; and shredding files about how the casinos were run.

Before the appeal at Knightsbridge Crown Court, Ladbroke's restructured the company responsible for their casinos and appointed directors described by Lord Widgery as being of impeccable character.

Ladbroke's argued that their licences should be restored because the casinos were no longer being run by the people who had allowed the breaches of the Gaming Act to take place; and that the Knightsbridge Crown Court had not

sufficiently taken that restructuring into account.

Lord Widgery said that the restructured company, which was sitting with four magistrates, showed that the court had considered Ladbroke's restructuring but did not think much of it.

That was a conclusion they were perfectly entitled to come to, Lord Widgery continued, particularly in view of the finding of the changes, which were made between the licensing hearing before the magistrates and the appeal and completed only six days before the appeal.

"It might indicate repentance, but at best it would be a death-bed repentance," he said.

To renew the gaming licences in this case because of the last minute restructuring, carried out after the sanction of refusal to renew had been imposed, might well be regarded by the man in the street as an unwarranted display of mercy shown to a large corporation

which had made vast sums of money from its illegal operations, mercy of a kind which would never be extended to an individual.

The question of costs was reserved for a later date. All of the objections to the renewal of the licences, the police, the Gaming Board, and the Playboy Club, asked for costs, but Mr John Matthews, QC, for Ladbroke's said that his clients would accept hearing only one set of costs, not three.

In an agency report of the hearing before the Divisional Court (The Times, February 29) it was stated that Mr Matthews had said: "It is accepted that the previous management had been guilty of outrageous conduct."

Yesterday Mr Matthews said that he had not made that statement. He had argued on the hypothetical basis that there had been such outrageous conduct but it had not been admitted that it had, in fact, taken place.

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Pensions at post offices guaranteed by minister

By Nicholas Timmins

Pensioners will not be forced to receive their pension fortnightly or have to receive it through a bank account, Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for Social Services, said yesterday.

"Retirement pensioners will remain free to draw their pension weekly from the post office," he told the Social Services Committee on Social Services.

He also promised that "no one will be forced to have his pension or other social security benefit paid direct into a bank account, but this might be an option for those who would like it."

Mr Jenkin said no other decisions had yet been made on a study that recommended moves towards fortnightly payment of benefits and greater use of payment by direct bank account, with exceptions for supplementary benefit, family income supplement and for those over 80.

The report estimated savings of £50m could be made.

The proposals have evoked a considerable protest. But Mr Jenkin made plain that those affecting pensioners will not be implemented, though they might be given the option of less frequent payments and of payment into bank accounts.

He did not rule out paying other benefits less frequently, particularly child benefit, which the report proposed should be paid monthly at a saving of some £22m. He conceded that for poor families, where the benefit is a significant part of the income, weekly payments would remain.

He admitted that if most pensioners still opted for weekly payments at a Post Office about £15m of the estimated £50m savings proposed in the report would disappear.

Labour backbenchers on the committee said afterwards that they believed a far greater part of the savings would disappear if exceptions were made for poor families on child benefit, because of the extra work of identifying that group.

Mr Jenkin also attempted to calm fears that thousands of sub-postoffices would be closed if the report's proposals were implemented. He said: "The Government is determined to ensure the continuance of a widespread sub-postoffice network."

Continued from page 1

say to me. But prices are still going up; unemployment is still rising. Have we not been caught in another prolonged and damaging strike, in which, whatever the outcome, there are no winners, only more problems for both sides, and for Britain?

All this is undeniable, indeed we agree about it many times when we asked for your vote last year. We did not promise you 'instant sunshine'."

"Change could not be painless, particularly at a time of world recession and rapidly rising oil prices."

We are paying the price for years and years of make-believe and now the problems of those years have come home to roost. No wonder you agreed it was time for a change," Mrs Thatcher said.

That change had begun. Last summer income tax had been cut at levels to give better rewards for work and enterprise. It was continuing with further measures to reduce public spending. "We must do that," she said, "because that burden is largely responsible for the present high rates of interest which are causing so much hardship to people with mortgages, and slowing down much-needed investment in industry."

"We are making some progress," she claimed. "It is gradually becoming accepted by management and unions alike that they cannot just turn to government to bail them out whenever they are in difficulties."

The result of buying off trouble was simply "a decline on the instalment plan."

"We must change, and if Britain cannot recover, if too fast, innocent people would get hurt."

Today

Sun rises: 6.19 am
Sun sets: 6.22 pm
Moon rises: 4.28 am
Moon sets: 1.49 pm

New moon: March 16.
Lighting up: 6.32 pm to 5.47 am.
High water: London Bridge, 10.33 am, 6.0m; 11.8 pm, 6.2m. Avonmouth, 3.42 am, 10.6m; 4.20 pm, 11.1m. Dover, 7.52 am, 5.6m; 8.26 pm, 5.8m. Hull, 5.58 am, 5.3m; 1.18 pm, 6.2m. Liverpool, 8.5 am, 8.0m; 8.45 pm, 8.1m.
1ft = 0.3048m 1m = 3.2808ft

A cold NW airstream covers the country.

Labour Party inquiry told of PLP deficiencies

Call to reselect Prime Minister

By John Grosse

A proposal that the Labour Party leader should be subject to a process of reselection even when he (or she) is Prime Minister, has been submitted to Mr Michael Meacher, Labour's commission of inquiry by Mr Michael Meacher, the left-wing MP for Oldham, West, and a minister in the last Government.

In his written evidence to the commission Mr Meacher says he regards the reselection of the Prime Minister as "the most important reform."

MPs as well as local Labour parties, union groups and other bodies have been invited to submit evidence.

Such reselection, he believes, should take place at an agreed time, some point between 18 and 36 months from the date of the preceding general election.

Mr Meacher thinks that the Labour leader should, in effect, submit his record for approval within such a timescale, whether the electoral college is just the Parliamentary Labour Party (PLP) or some wider body, as proposed at last year's annual conference.

There are five other main areas highlighted by Mr Meacher, where the functioning of the PLP is at present deficient, and in each case he suggests what he believes are necessary reforms.

The first proposal for reform makes the point that in common with the principle of accountability which has been adopted for MPs, the PLP should have

the right to consider the leader for reselection, which is already the practice when the party is in Opposition.

Mr Meacher's second concern is with the lack of consultation of the PLP before the presentation of Bills or the introduction of significant new policy proposals, together with subsequent operation of the whipping system, which "has effectively neutered the role of backbench MPs when Labour is the party of government."

In order to reselect the role of the MP, Mr Meacher believes that the draft of the Queen's Speech should be presented to the PLP at the start of each session in time for amendments to be made and omnibus bills avoided before it is presented to Parliament.

Thirdly, the PLP should be "treated seriously" as a forum for the taking of important decisions in a democratic manner. That would require changes both of procedure and of attitude, Mr Meacher suggests.

The decision-making role of the PLP needs to be much more clearly understood by socialists outside the PLP. Furthermore, it is imperative that a relationship be established between the PLP and the national executive committee (NEC) in a manner which properly safeguards the respective roles of each.

Mr Meacher feels that a relationship of genuine accountability to the party conference

needs to be built on procedural innovations. The NEC/PLP report conference on the party's activities in the year should form the basis of a debate (see leader's speech). Rights and obligations: PLP bloc at the time "need to be re-assessed in light of any move towards tripartite election system the selection of the party's main candidates."

By such means Mr Meacher believes the main defects of the party's machinery could be overcome. Even proposals for reform "accepted on a massive definition of the PLP reflects the feelings of Labour MPs."

The list is short: a PLP has no real power accountability over it when in government; it not seriously considers the machinery for making cratic decision-making being operated; that it is not effectively put into the wider structure party in the country; has not established a monetary role and relationship with the NEC that a direct relationship genuine accountability conference has not created.

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One of three printing unions reject offer

By David Felton

Leaders of the National Association of Printers are to meet today to decide what industrial action to take after their rejection of a wide-ranging pay and productivity package covering 190,000 printing workers in the provincial newspaper and general printing industry.

The package was rejected by NGA negotiators early yesterday after a 13-hour negotiating session. Leaders of the two other main printing unions in the industry are to recommend acceptance of the offer to their members.

If accepted, the measures to improve efficiency in the industry would lead to widespread changes in working practices, with union demarcation lines going back for several decades being wiped away.

Mr Joseph Wade, NGA general secretary, said last night that the union was prepared to recommend the productivity proposals, "which would have a dramatic effect on our members," but had rejected the total package because the money offer was not good enough.

The employers' groups, the Newspaper Society and the British Printing Industries Federation, said the £12.79 a week increase in grade rates would guarantee a minimum earnings level for craftsmen of £75 a week and was worth 20.6 per cent.

In addition a £3.96 a week flat supplement is to be consolidated and a reduction of one hour in the working week to 39 hours is offered from next January. The employers also gave a commitment for further reduction to 37.5 hours a week in July, 1982.

Mr Wade yesterday disputed those figures and said that the increase in average earnings was worth 15.9 per cent, which would not keep pace with the rate of inflation, which the union expected to reach 20 per cent at the end of this week.

In crude terms the NGA are demanding a further £5 a week on minimum grade rates and £5 a week on the minimum earnings level for craftsmen. Union leaders had said before negotiations started that "no one should be under any illusion but that there may have to be a great deal of blood on the carpet."

The central feature of the package is a new productivity programme which includes "interchangeability" of workers in large sections of the industry and a revision of the apprenticeship scheme.

That has been accepted by negotiators representing 130,000 workers in the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades (SOGAT) and the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel (NATSGMP), who will be recommending the offer to a ballot of their memberships.

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The survey, carried out among 450 overseas students at Bradford and Sheffield universities, North East London Polytechnic and London University's School of Oriental and African Studies, shows that nine in ten of present foreign students would not have come to Britain if they had had to pay the new fees.

Presenting the findings of the survey yesterday to a parliamentary select committee, Mr Phillips said that in spite of reports of a rise this year in

applications from overseas students at Newcastle College of Art and Technology they had dropped by more than 97 per cent.

"By this time last year there had been 200 applications from overseas. So far this year the college has had five."

He told the committee, which is investigating the funding and organization of higher education, that Sir Christopher Britton, Labour MP for Newcastle West, said that the Mauritius High Commission in London believed few students from Mauritius would be able to afford to study in Britain in future.

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Move to end corporal punishment

By David Felton

Corporal punishment is expected to be banned in schools in four more local education authorities, Wakefield, Rotherham, Sheffield and Manchester, after the decision of four authorities in the south of England.

In Wakefield the education committee has expressed its "distaste" for corporal punishment and voted for its abolition in special schools. The committee is expected to vote for discussions to be held on banning corporal punishment in all schools.

In Sheffield, the council has voted to abolish corporal punishment by the end of 1981 and in Manchester the education committee has asked teachers to consider the abolition of corporal punishment as "a matter of urgency."

In Rotherham, the education committee has asked teachers to consider the abolition of corporal punishment as "a matter of urgency."

Already Haringey, Waltham Forest, Brent and Inner London have decided to abolish corporal punishment within a set time.

Stopp, the Society of Teachers Opposed to Physical Punishment, said yesterday that it expected other local education authorities to follow suit.

It also published figures of more than 400 beatings at Eastmoor High School, Wakefield, in the year 1978-79, against a total number of 563 pupils for that year. The school disputes those figures.

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Successful father: Samson, the first gorilla to breed in captivity, in 1971, is such a successful father that Bristol Zoo officials are planning to put his mates on the contraceptive pill. So far Samson, aged 17, has fathered four gorillas in the zoo and now two more of his mates are pregnant. There is a danger of the enclosure becoming overcrowded.

Attorney General criticized for not seeing MPs

By Our Labour Staff

Sir Michael Havers, QC, the Attorney General, was criticized yesterday for refusing to appear before the House of Commons Select Committee on Employment to give evidence on trade union immunities and related issues.

Sir Michael, whom MPs on the all-party committee wanted to question chiefly on the enforcement of the Employment Bill, has told the committee that he "must respectfully decline" its invitation to appear.

Some Labour and right-wing Conservative MPs were swift last night in claiming Sir Michael's refusal to be an indication that the Government has not yet decided how certain sections of the Bill, particularly on picketing, will be enforced.

In a letter to Mr John Giddens, Labour MP for Newcastle-under-Lyme and chairman of the committee, the Attorney General says that the standing committee on the Employment Bill is the proper forum for him to give advice on the effects of the proposed legislation.

From Our Correspondent

Mr Adrian Walker, the West Cumbria coroner, yesterday praised a climber who tried unsuccessfully to save the life of a companion after they had been caught in severe conditions on Scarfistyle, 10,000ft.

He said at an inquest at Keswick that Mr David Daniel, aged 30, a civil servant, had "behaved like a tower of strength."

Mr Daniel, of Rocky Lane, Monton, Eccles, Manchester, and his neighbour, Mr Terence Tucker, aged 30, were both experienced climbers, were fully equipped, and had checked the weather forecast before setting out to climb Scarfistyle, the corner was told.

Mr Daniel said they had been caught in an atrocious weather near the summit and forced to camp in a snow hole. Mr Tucker had collapsed four times. His body was found six days later.

A verdict of death by misadventure was recorded.

From Christopher Thomas

The legal right of people to give only the barest information during interrogation, which is seen as one of the most serious obstacles to bringing terrorists to book, was yesterday rejected by the non-secretarian Alliance Party of Northern Ireland.

Senior Army and police officers privately point to the so-called right of silence as the most important reason why many known terrorists still walk freely in the streets of Belfast.

The abolition of the right was advocated in

HOME NEWS

BBC refuses MP's pleas to drop 'Nationwide' report on Welsh holiday home 'arsonists'

From Tim Jones

A BBC film report of people who claimed to be involved in arson attacks on Welsh holiday homes was broadcast last night despite appeals by MPs.

The decision to allow the film to be shown on Nationwide was taken by Mr Ian Trethowan, director-general, and senior BBC executives.

Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, said: "We have a free press, but I think I am entitled to ask the BBC to think very carefully whether they should do this sort of thing. These people are terrorists who have endangered life and property and the BBC seem to be encouraging them. The first duty of the BBC in this should be to assist the police."

Mr Leo Abse, Labour MP for Pontypool, said: "To give a platform to arsonists is irresponsible on the part of the BBC. This is not a question of giving a platform of speech to a minority group but of giving a platform to avowed criminals."

The film, shot at a house in Cardiff, showed a silhouetted man handing a BBC reporter a statement threatening to incite arson attacks. It was watched by senior police officers in Wales who are investigating 35 attacks on English-owned holiday homes.

Mr Richard Francis, head of BBC news, said that a Nationwide team had been investigating the arson campaign for

three weeks. "During the course of gathering information the team discovered that the organization claiming to carry out these arson attacks might be prepared to be interviewed in order to explain their motives."

He added: "It was made plain that all the circumstances might be subsequently investigated by the police, and shortly afterwards the reporter volunteered to the police such information as he was able to give." Our Political Staff writes: MPs on all sides of the House expressed "displeasure" yesterday. Mr Alec Jones, Opposition spokesman on Welsh affairs, tried to table an early day motion and a private notice question. In the event, he issued a statement accusing the BBC of irresponsibility.

The BBC has thus given publicity to a member of an organization which admits that through its activities "somebody will get hurt sooner or later", he said.

Earlier, Mr Merlyn Rees, shadow Home Secretary, said in the Commons that there was a bombing campaign on houses of English residents and of Welshmen who owned two houses.

Nobody wanted to stop sending ideas coming out on one vision, even from those with which one disagreed, he said. But this was a matter of people who would be hurt.

Mr Norman St John-Stevens, leader of the House, said that the Government attached great importance to the intervention

of Mr Rees. The Home Secretary, of course, had no direct programmes, he added.

It is understood that shadow spokesmen concerned with legal affairs thought the BBC was in contravention of its statutory obligations. Many MPs thought that, whatever the statutory position, the programme was an appalling piece of journalism.

Action possible: The Attorney General, Sir Michael Havers, QC, is considering the papers in two cases involving the BBC sent to him by the Director of Public Prosecutions, to see whether he should recommend action under the Prevention of Terrorism Act, 1976.

One concerns the filming by a Panorama team of armed IRA members in Carrickmore, Co Tyrone, last October. The second concerns an interview with a member of the Irish National Liberation Army about the murder of Mr Airey Neave, which was shown on the Tonight programme in July.

ATV reprimand: Production staff involved in the filming of alleged criminal damage by children in an ATV programme have been reprimanded, Mr Charles Denton, programme executive of ATV network Ltd, said yesterday.

Mr Arthur Sandford, chief executive of Nottinghamshire County Council, had alleged that a stone-throwing incident in the film, in a series called England, their England, had been stage managed.

£2.3m apples aid plea by farmers rejected

From Hugh Clayton

Agriculture Correspondent

Newbury

Mr Peter Walker, Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, rebuffed farmers yesterday for demanding large price rises and protection against imports.

He indicated that the Government would reject a claim by farmers for aid of £2.3m to counteract what they see as unfair subsidies to French growers of Golden Delicious apples. "If apple growers in this country are kidding themselves that it is all unfair competition, they are deluding themselves", he said. "A trip round Covent Garden looking at the golden delicious compared with some of the British produce coming on to that market is not an encouraging experience."

He was speaking at a conference organized by the Wessex area of the Conservative Party, at which he faced many sceptical questions from farmers. He insisted that the Government had an outstanding record of helping farmers. It had eliminated the green pound gap, about which they had complained for years.

Mr Walker said: "They are not saying much about it now. In a 10-month period it would be difficult to envisage any government doing anything as speedily as we have done."



Rival medical students in battle before the Hospital's Rugby Cup final yesterday between St Mary's and Westminster at Richmond. (Match report, page 12.)

Curb on sales drives aimed at children

By a Staff Reporter

Sales promotion methods aimed at children are to be modified after the publication yesterday of the Advertising Standards Authority's new code of practice.

The code, which is observed by all main media and advertising bodies, stipulates that children should not be eligible

for promotions where the prizes may cause difficulties with parents unless their written permission is required for entry to the competition. The use of prizes unsuitable for children or young people is barred.

More restrictions may be on the way. The authority last year initiated a study in schools run by the Inner London Education

Authority on the effects of advertising on children.

Mr W. J. Ambrose, chairman of the sales promotion sub-committee, which produces the code through the ASA, said: "Children are easily led or misled and we feel we have a responsibility not to involve children against the wishes or attitudes of their parents."

Leaders of drugs gang jailed for 12 years

From Our Correspondent

Ipswich

The two ringleaders of a gang of drug smugglers were each jailed at Ipswich Crown Court yesterday for 12 years.

The first man, Ahmet Veli, a Turkish Cypriot, of Tottenham, London, who was said to have been leader of the London end, admitted conspiracy, and importing £5m of heroin into Britain. The second, Fuat Yurksel, a jeweller from Istanbul, who was said to have organized the operation in Turkey, had pleaded not guilty to similar charges.

Edward Scanlon, of Hampstead, London, one of the gang's couriers, who admitted conspiring to import cocaine from South America as well as heroin from Turkey, was jailed for seven years. He received a further consecutive sentence of two years for burglary.

Sharon Bryant, aged 22, of London, mistress of Mr Veli, was jailed for two years for importing and supplying heroin. Victoria McCaffrey, aged 24, of Fulham, London, who was jailed for two years at the beginning of the trial three and a half weeks ago, had her sentence varied yesterday by Judge Bertrand Richards to an 18-month suspended sentence.

Mrs Sheila Cooper, Mr Scanlon's friend, also of Hampstead, was earlier jailed for three years for attempting to import heroin.

Prison officers block action on riot orders

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

Prison officers at Wormwood Scrubs, London, who face a police investigation after a clash here with prisoners, have told the Home Office that they will not take part in a similar operation in future. They were warned in a deal with a protest on August 31 last.

A meeting of members of the Prison Officers' Association has decided that they would go in to bring out any colleagues left in the prison during a protest or riot and would then hold a meeting to decide what to do.

The officers' reaction places in jeopardy tactics worked out or dealing with trouble in Britain's potentially explosive jails, which are dangerously overcrowded and contain a high proportion of people convicted of crimes of violence. Adding to the crisis in the system is industrial action reported at 25 prisons.

A spokesman for the 450-strong branch of the POA at Wormwood Scrubs said yesterday that it had in effect told the Home Office: "We are no longer prepared to accept the dictates you give us when we know you are not going to protect us from malicious allegations."

The resolution by the branch was passed on to the prison

department by the governor. Officials at the department had said they understood the feelings of branch members; but "they expected us to follow the best traditions of the service and do as we were told. But our members are adamant", the spokesman said.

The time taken to put the prisoners away during the incident on August 31 was seven minutes, he said. Officers saw no reason why they should carry out instructions of the sort given which had led to a police investigation.

Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, asked Scotland Yard to investigate the clash.

Mr Keith Gibson, director for the south-east region of the prison service, had written to Mr Whitelaw saying he was unable to make progress with his investigations into the incident as prima facie evidence had emerged of criminal assaults by officers on prisoners.

There were injuries to 54 prisoners and 11 officers during the trouble. The Howard League for Penal Reform said yesterday in a letter to Mr Whitelaw that it welcomed the police investigation, but was amazed that the evidence had emerged only now and not immediately after the incident while memories and wounds were fresh.

Transplant man treated for heart rejection

Mr Even McPhee, who received a heart transplant last month, has been treated for signs of rejection at Papworth hospital, near Cambridge, it was disclosed yesterday.

His body showed signs of rejecting his new heart at the end of last week, but, after treatment with a drug he is now making better progress.

Doctors said it was not the first difficulty for Mr McPhee, aged 23, from Inverness. Soon after his operation he had to be fitted with an electronic pacemaker because his heart was not beating correctly. A hospital official said the situation was not unusual. Mr Keith Castle, Britain's longest surviving heart transplant patient, had similar trouble with rejection, but that was successfully treated.

Mr Castle and Mr Andrew Jarlow, another heart transplant patient, met in Doncaster yesterday while they were helping to promote a campaign to raise £250,000 for heart transplants.

During yesterday's tour, which was organized by the National Heart Research Fund, Mr Castle and Mr Jarlow went to Scunthorpe, where they received a cheque for £1,500 to help the campaign.

British heritage in danger, council says

By Our Planning Reporter

Public interest in, and official acceptance of, the need for nature conservation are not enough to safeguard Britain's natural heritage, the Nature Conservancy Council states in its annual report published today.

"Modern technology is, more often than not, intrinsically damaging to natural systems, while today's land use practices decrease natural variety and diversity", it states.

"It is not only individual species of animals and plants that can become extinct for ever; whole systems, developed over many centuries, if not millennia, can also be irreparable."

The report observes that national nature reserves cover less than a hundredth of the area of Britain, and that only just over a quarter of that is owned by the council.

"Unless the nation is willing by one means or another to safeguard these crucially important parts of its heritage, we foresee the loss of irreplaceable sites and a harsh judgement by posterity on this generation", it says.

Fifth Report of the Nature Conservancy Council, 1 April 1979-31 March 1979 (Stationery Office, £6).

Clash likely on new plan for west London relief road

By John Young

Fresh controversy seems likely to arise in the next few months over revived plans to build a north-south relief road through west London, between Shepherd's Bush and Chelsea Embankment.

The road would follow the same route as the previously proposed West Cross motorway, which was to have formed part of the inner London ringway and was abandoned in 1973. The main difference is that, instead of being elevated over railway tracks which pass through Olympia and West Brompton, it would run alongside them.

At present the Greater London Council will see no more than that a feasibility study is in process, and that a report will be presented to its central area committee later this year. But it is thought that the report will almost certainly

come down in favour of such a road.

One of the factors influencing any decision will be the possibility of a Channel Tunnel terminal at West Brompton, Olympia or White City. The GLC would ideally prefer a terminal in the east London docklands, but that is unlikely to appeal to British Rail.

With or without such a terminal, residents' groups accept that there is an urgent need for a new road to take heavy traffic out of areas like Earl's Court. But they maintain that, without a new river crossing to Wandsworth, the road would merely funnel intolerable amounts of traffic on to the Embankment.

The resulting destruction of the Chelsea riverside, including such cherished and historic streets as Cheyne Walk, should be a matter of national, and not just local, concern, they say.

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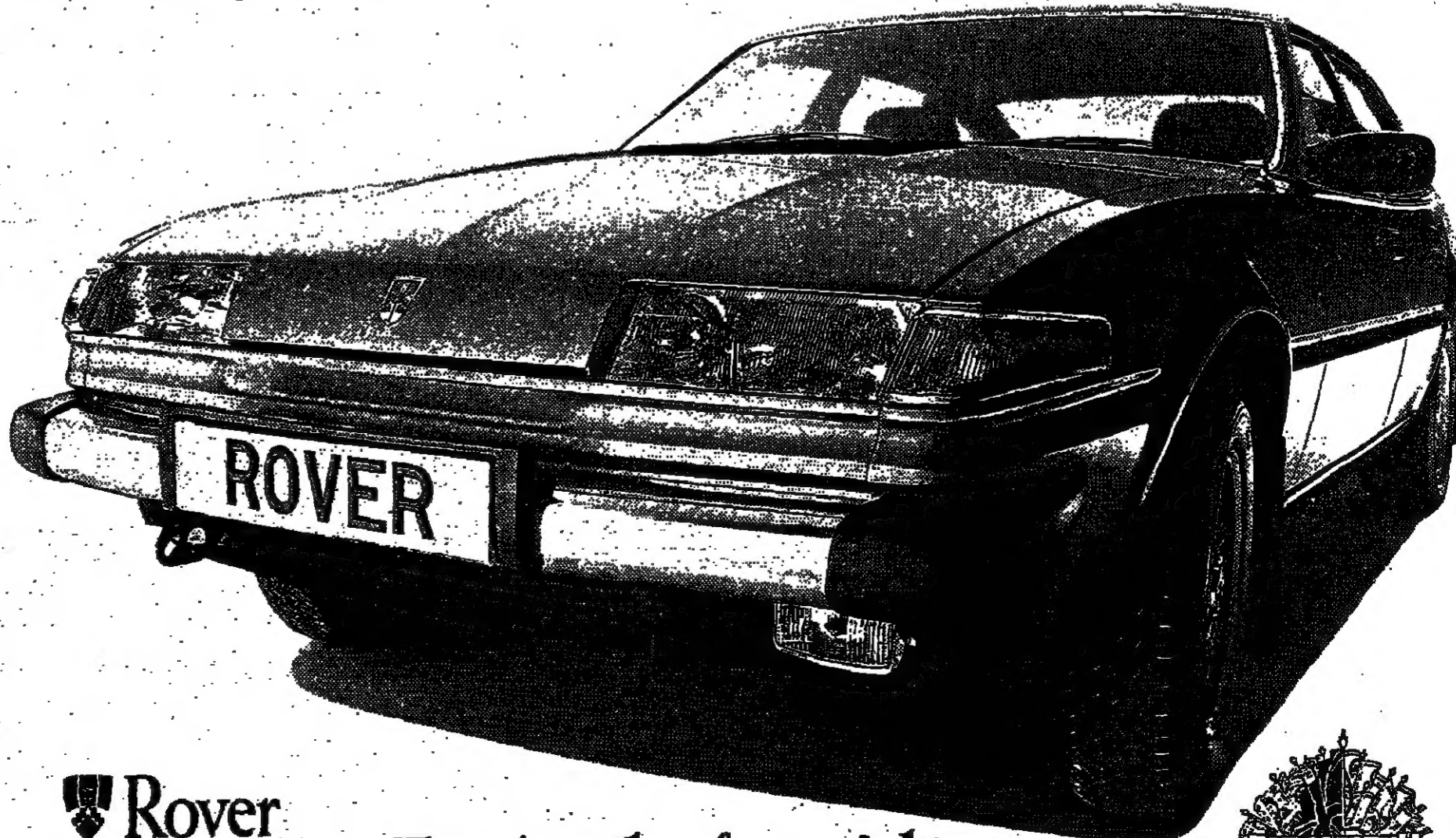
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* Complete Government Fuel Consumption Figures: Rover 5-speed manuals: 2300: urban motoring 17.5 mpg (16.1 litres/100km), constant 56 mph (90 km/h) 36.8 mpg (7.7 litres/100km), constant 75 mph (120 km/h) 31.0 mpg (9.1 litres/100km); 2600: urban motoring 18.5 mpg (15.3 litres/100km), constant 56 mph (90 km/h) 38.2 mpg (7.4 litres/100km), constant 75 mph (120 km/h) 30.2 mpg (9.4 litres/100km); 3500: urban motoring 16.2 mpg (17.4 litres/100km), constant 56 mph (90 km/h) 36.3 mpg (7.9 litres/100km), constant 75 mph (120 km/h) 27.9 mpg (10.1 litres/100km). 5-speed gearbox optional on the 2300. Car shown features optional alloy wheels.

PARLIAMENT, March 12, 1980

British aid mission to visit Rhodesia after independence

House of Commons
A British aid mission will visit Rhodesia as soon as practicable after independence, Sir Ian Gilmour, Lord Privy Seal, said during questions about the latest situation in Zimbabwe.

Sir Ian Gilmour (Chesham and Amersham, C) said: Mr Mugabe has been appointed Prime Minister and has submitted a full list of ministers to the Governor. Arrangements will be made shortly for the election of the Senate and of a President-elect. The date of independence is being discussed between the Governor and Mr Mugabe.

Mr Mugabe has asked for assistance from Britain in the form of military and police training, the resettlement of members of the forces of both sides and advice on the machinery of government and on broadcasting. We shall respond positively to these requests.

Decisions on longer term capital aid can be reached only after the new government have set their priorities. An aid mission was sent to Rhodesia as soon as practicable after independence.

The Government has informed the Commonwealth Secretary-General of the request that Zimbabwe should become a member of the Commonwealth. The proposal has our full support and the Government hopes that the Commonwealth members will agree in time for Zimbabwe to come to independence within the Commonwealth.

In that event, the necessary adjustments to the Zimbabwe Act and other United Kingdom laws will be made by Order in Council. Mr David Wainwright (Walsall, N) said: Should not the South African authorities learn the lesson from recent events—the tide of history and majority rule in Africa cannot be stopped and that it is essential the black people in South Africa should get the rights and freedoms which the people of Rhodesia are going to achieve?

Sir Ian Gilmour—I agree that the election has been free and fair. We all welcome the new order and the date of independence. I fully see the force of what has been said. This matter is being discussed between Mr Mugabe and the Governor.

Mr Eldon Griffiths (Bury St Edmunds, C)—Since South Africa is important to the new order, in economic and many other ways, will the Lord Privy Seal persuade Mr Mugabe and the other front line states not to rush their cases?

They should let the South Afri-

cans settle down and get used to the new situation so that in the end it may benefit all. Sir Ian Gilmour—What Mr Griffiths has said is right. He will have noted the careful remarks Mr Mugabe has made about relations with South Africa.

Mr Douglas Jay (Wandsworth, Battersea, N) said: Does his statement mean a further legislative initiative is to come before the House before independence is formally and constitutionally established?

Sir Ian Gilmour—There will be an order-in-council as envisaged under the Zimbabwe Act. There has to be a decision on the independence of Zimbabwe whether or not Zimbabwe is a member of the Commonwealth. The necessary adjustments to the Zimbabwe Act and other United Kingdom laws will be made by Order in Council.

Mr David Wainwright (Walsall, N) said: Should not the South African authorities learn the lesson from recent events—the tide of history and majority rule in Africa cannot be stopped and that it is essential the black people in South Africa should get the rights and freedoms which the people of Rhodesia are going to achieve?

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Uttering threats wrong way to negotiate UK share of EEC budget

The Government did not believe that uttering threats was the right way to proceed in negotiations over Britain's contribution to the EEC budget, Sir Ian Gilmour, Lord Privy Seal, said at question time.

Mr Eric Deakin (Waltham Forest, Walthamstow, Lab) asked for the Prime Minister's views on the EEC budget. Sir Ian Gilmour—The Prime Minister has been very clear in his statement that the United Kingdom will not be a member of the EEC until it has agreed to the terms of the budget. We do not believe that uttering threats is the right way to proceed in negotiations.

Mr Deakin—In seeking a permanent solution, does the Government believe that the EEC will be able to reach an agreement on the budget? Sir Ian Gilmour—The Prime Minister has been very clear in his statement that the United Kingdom will not be a member of the EEC until it has agreed to the terms of the budget. We do not believe that uttering threats is the right way to proceed in negotiations.

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ought to take a much more robust and aggressive attitude particularly towards the French Government which does not understand anything else.

Mr James Lamond (Oldham, East, Lab)—And that is a supporter. Sir Ian Gilmour—I do not agree that the Prime Minister has been blowing hot and cold. She has been singularly strong and consistent on this matter throughout. Mr Hamilton seems to think that this quarrel should be conducted as though between members of the Labour Party. We do not believe that is the right way to behave to our partners, but we have taken a strong position.

Mr Deakin—In seeking a permanent solution, does the Government believe that the EEC will be able to reach an agreement on the budget? Sir Ian Gilmour—The Prime Minister has been very clear in his statement that the United Kingdom will not be a member of the EEC until it has agreed to the terms of the budget. We do not believe that uttering threats is the right way to proceed in negotiations.

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particularly in regard to the fact that this represents approximately 500m a year on year.

Sir Ian Gilmour—I am not sure that there has been this demand from Germany. He knows our position. We made it clear to our partners that we are anxious to make progress on all Community problems and that they should be dealing with our own merits.

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virtually useless and in no way serious any of our problems in the Community. We are negotiating in our own way, firmly and sensibly, and we do not believe that the uttering of impotent threats is the right way to proceed.

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threats is not the best way of proceeding. Mr Nigel Spearing (Newham, South, Lab)—Will he give the House an assurance that the Government will not accept any offers of off-setting grants even if they fully displace matters which are the proper responsibility of the United Kingdom?

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Assisted places scheme through

House of Lords
The House of Lords sat all night on the committee stage of the Education (No 2) Bill during which the clause on assisted places scheme was agreed to. Tuesday's sittings ended at 7.5 am today.

On Clause 17 (Assisted places at independent schools), Lord Stewart of Farnham, in Opposition, said the proposed scheme was harmful to state education standards and socially divisive.

The clause requires the Secretary of State to establish and operate a scheme for assisted places at independent schools under which the schools will be paid fees in respect of pupils holding such places and will be reimbursed by the Secretary of State.

Lord Stewart of Farnham said this was not the way to get the best of talent among the young or to produce a united nation. The scheme allowed the Secretary of State to subsidize the independent education of children from the state sector.

The clause undermined state schools and limited their development. One reason was that the state did not do so well industrially because of the lack of proper relations between those people who owned the industry and gave the state subsidies and those people who had to carry them out.

Bridging gap between north and south

The report of the Independent Commission on International Development Issues (the Brandt Report) was a challenge to the south to make a commitment to the leaders of every national government. The Earl of Listowel (Lab) said when introducing a debate on the report that the Government would take the lead.

The report was the most important publication on relations between developed and developing countries since the Brandt Report in 1969. It recommended a programme of world economic recovery which had unanimous support from all members.

A debt of gratitude was owed to the members of the commission for the preparation of a recovery programme which they believed would solve the intractable problems of increasing poverty and international tensions.

In the south an expanding population would be bound to stimulate a greater demand for food. In the comparatively affluent north, industrial countries were in the midst of a recession and about 18 million people unemployed.

It was possible to merge the desperately urgent needs of the south with the needs of the north. The report answered this in the affirmative.

BA to get new Concorde

Mr Norman Tebbit, Under Secretary for Trade, said in a written reply: The previous Government announced on April 3, 1979, that a sixth British built Concorde would be placed in service. The aircraft is expected to enter service later this year.

The seventh British built Concorde has been allocated to BA. The aircraft will be used to maintain super-sonic services while one of its original fleet of five Concorde is undergoing repairs. The aircraft has indicated that they would be prepared to consider proposals from British Airways for the purchase of the aircraft.

As to Mr Shore's last point, we are not rushing these matters. I am sure that the Government will be discussing this during the next day or two.

match, should wish to impose such burdens on some countries in the south.

There were two serious omissions from the report. No consideration had been given to the impact of nuclear power on economies of the south or the effect of the arms race on the world economy.

Trade-off at UN denied by minister

There has been no bargain at the United Nations Human Rights Commission in Geneva between Britain and the Soviet Union that they should drop their motion on Northern Ireland and Britain should drop theirs about Dr Sakharov, Mr Peter Blaker, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said today.

Mr Blaker (Blackpool, South, C)—It will certainly figure on the agenda at Madrid. It is right that the British Government should be seen to stand by its commitment to the Helsinki Final Act. On the matter of preservation of peace, we shall also want to discuss that in the light of recent events in Afghanistan.

Mr Philip Whitehead (Derby, North, Lab) asked Mr Blaker to comment on press reports that Britain had agreed to drop its request for the Soviet Union to release Sakharov in return for the Soviet Union dropping its request for information about Northern Ireland. Surely if we want to raise human rights, this kind of trade-off was not the right way.

Mr Blaker—I am glad to be able to assure Mr Whitehead that there was no such bargain as he has just suggested and was implied in some press reports.

What happened was that the Soviet Union decided to consider the motion to drop their motion on Northern Ireland, perhaps recognising that it would not be successful.

Redressing balance that lies against patients when making complaints

The balance of advantage lay heavily against an individual patient making a complaint and overwhelmingly in favour of the hospital authorities, Mr Jack Ashley (Stoke-on-Trent, South, Lab) said today.

Mr Ashley said he was bringing in a Bill to redress the balance. The Bill would give patients the right to make a complaint to the Health Service Commission for investigation of clinical judgment.

He said his aim was to prevent the medical establishment gagging a patient by murmuring the incantation "clinical judgment".

When people suffered damage or disaster they had a right to know what went wrong and why it went wrong. They had a right to seek the truth, but that right was curtailed by the present system and, as a consequence, patients were often left in a state of confusion to which they were entitled.

At present, complaints were investigated by health authorities and as they were ultimately under the control of the medical establishment, they were often biased.

Road deaths

In the 20 years 1960-1979 143,000 people were killed and 1,750,000 seriously injured in road accidents, Mr Kenneth Clarke, Parliamentary Secretary for Transport said in a written reply.

Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Under Secretary for Scotland said in a written reply that the report of the Royal Commission on the Legal Services in Scotland was likely to be published within the next two months.

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Protest at TV film on Welsh bombings

Mr Merlyn Rees, chief Opposition spokesman on home affairs, said today that in Wales there was a bombing campaign taking place on houses of English residents and of Welshmen with two bombs.

He was given to understand that tonight a programme was going to be shown on television which would show how the Welsh people were being treated and how they were being treated.

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Many difficulties on EEC passport overcome

Mr Thomas Spencer (Derbyshire, ED) said he wished to draw the attention of the House to the difficulties of the EEC passport. The international civil aviation authority had canvassed the possibility of a passport which would be valid for all EEC countries.

He then displayed a mock-up which, he said, had been issued by the Foreign Office in London, of a passport which was valid for all EEC countries.

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Disbanding of orchestra 'act of vandalism'

The proposal to disband the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra had outraged the entire musical world and in view of the volume of protests the Government should consider formally requesting the BBC not to do it, Lord Boothby said during questions.

This is an act of vandalism (he said) and it is not only unprecedented but uncharacteristic of the BBC.

Lord Sandys, Captain, Yeoman of the Guard, said the Government were aware that the proposed cuts had made front page news in Scottish national papers.

It was entirely a matter for the BBC governors to decide how to deploy BBC resources within the total income available to the corporation. The Government should not be subject to consultation with the unions, still needed more detailed work. The governors had to make a number of painful decisions and Lord Donaldson of Kingsbridge (Lab), for the Opposition, said the BBC made the biggest contribution to music and indirectly to musical education in this country.

tion in the world. They had made two years.

Lord Ross of Marnock (Lab) said that the BBC was a national institution, but this decision would be disastrous. There was not the time to impoverish Scotland or the regions.

Lord Sandys said that that was a matter for internal organisation within the BBC.

One of the central issues had been the extension of BBC services during a time of strict shortage.

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HOME NEWS

Nurses may benefit through cut in hours

John Roper, with Services Correspondent

Hospital ward sisters on the minimum pay scale may benefit from an extra £7 to £8 a week and an agreement reached yesterday on a shorter working week of 37½ hours.

The agreement was reached at a meeting of the General Nurses' Council, which decided at local health authorities, if it agreed that it was possible under strained budgets, could be allowed to introduce a shorter week from April 1, next, earlier than planned.

Nurses who work for authorities who decide to take that step will receive the same wage they receive for the present hour week.

The Royal College of Nursing last night said it had no objection to the change.

Nurses' criticism of the last Clegg commission recommendation award, which gave an average salary increase of 15.5 per cent at a cost of £11m, emphasized that the nurses were based on a 37½ hour week, although that was due to come in until April, 81.

That, apparently, is still the intention, but if health authorities are in difficulties with, for example, wages, they may have to pay the extra 40-hour week they may be due for the extra two and a half hours under what is called a time rate, a fraction of his weekly pay.

Ban by council staffs could increase bills for ratepayers

By Christopher Warman, Local Government Correspondent

Ratepayers could be faced with even bigger bills than expected if the ban on work to send out rate demands by the National and Local Government Officers' Association (Nalgo) continues for more than a short while.

The refusal of local authority staff dealing with the rates, and those who are involved in the computers which work out the bills, could cause a serious shortage of money for councils.

That action was described yesterday as "an inapt stab in the back" at a time of serious financial and political difficulty by the Association of Councils, an independent group of local authority members.

In a statement it said that the result of such action would be to force councils to borrow money at high interest rates to keep services going.

Nalgo, which represents 500,000 local authority workers, instructed its members on Tuesday to stop work on the collection of the rates, just as the demands are being prepared throughout the country.

Mr. Richard Emmott, the deputy director of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy, said the seriousness of the situation depended on how protected the ban was.

"Rate demands go out from now, but local authorities do not expect to get much money in for a month after the financial year begins."

Diving to be resumed on Henry VIII warship

By Annabel Ferriman

Diving is to begin again in three weeks on the Mary Rose, the 700-ton warship of Henry VIII which sank in the Solent in 1545, and it is hoped to raise the hull in the summer of 1982.

Members of the Mary Rose Trust, which was set up in 1978 to excavate the remains of the ship, announced yesterday their plans to explore it over the next two summers. Two hundred volunteer divers hope to retrieve weapons, clothing, cooking vessels and other personal objects before the ship is raised.

So far the ship, which was the pride of Henry VIII's fleet and probably sank because of poor handling and overloading, has produced Britain's earliest ship gun carriage, the earliest piece of dated English domestic pottery and a whole collection of longbows, arrows and other archery equipment, when previously only one Tudor arrow was known to exist in Britain.

Dominoes, gaming boards, combs and candlesticks have also been found.

More than £300,000 has been spent on exploring the wreck, which is said to be in excellent condition, but the total cost of removing the contents and lifting is expected to be about £1.5m. About £100,000 has been raised or promised for this year's programme.

When lifted from the seabed, the ship is to be displayed in a new museum being planned at Portsmouth; the city council has earmarked a 12-acre site on former Ministry of Defence



A ship gun carriage, one of the earliest yet found, which came from the Mary Rose, a Tudor warship.

Fine art 'watchdogs' to fight amenity blight

By John Young, Planning Reporter

The Royal Fine Art Commission intends to play a more active and interventionist role in preventing the modern blight of undesirable building developments.

Spurred by its new secretary, Mr. Sheraton Canavassio, former executive editor of *Architectural Review*, the august but hitherto somewhat reticent body held its first full-scale meeting with the press.

Its members, aware of past criticism of being toothless watchdogs, made clear that they did not seek a bureaucratic status whereby they would automatically be summoned to give their views at public inquiries.

They wished to maintain their independent advisory role and not to become too closely involved in planning procedures.

But it was generally admitted that in many cases their advice had been sought far too late. Instead of being able to reject schemes altogether, they had been obliged to attempt to tidy them up and make them less obviously objectionable.

In future they would seek to improve communications so that they would be in a position to offer advice at an early stage before planning permission was granted or contracts let.

Sir Derman Christopherson, the commission's chairman, made clear that in some instances it would take a hard line and refuse to consider any development. As an example he cited the present plans to build houses in the grounds of Writtlebury, overlooking Hampstead Heath.

The commission also announced yesterday that it had joined forces with the Historic Buildings Council in opposing in principle any building in churchyards.

Farmland loss 'accelerating'

By Our Planning Reporter

A call for alternatives to the accelerating loss of farmland to sand and gravel extraction was made yesterday by Mr. Fionn Holford-Walker, secretary of the Council for the Protection of Rural England.

Alternatives should include restoration and conservation of materials by renovating buildings rather than tearing them down; the use of low-grade materials where possible; the extension of railways to obviate new road building; the reduction of constraints on marine dredging; and possibly the creation of coastal "super-quarries".

Mr. Holford-Walker, who was addressing a seminar in London on mineral extraction and planning organized by the Town and Country Planning Association, said that of present trends nearly 200 square miles of Britain would be worked for sand and gravel in the next 20 years.

"With 117 square miles of farmland being lost to other uses every year, the nation cannot afford erosion of its agricultural assets on this scale," he said.

EEC plan for language aid to minorities

Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Educationists are being led in an EEC directive to reduce a new approach to helping children of ethnic minorities with language difficulties.

In a new quarterly, the *Journal of Multicultural and Minority Development*, Dr. Rity Salfullah Khan describes "disturbing" a trend showing a loss of total communication between parents and children in minority families before the child starts school.

In some cases minority children refuse to speak the other tongue at school except an essential for example in a non-English speaking area.

After a time many parents in minority families appreciate their culture and language as being undervalued, she says. Minority children may consider their language to be a vital characteristic of their culture and identity, and essential to their religion.

Conversely, in several minorities there are indications that several decades hence there will be many children aged five living in school who can speak only English.

The EEC directive about the provision of teaching in the child's mother tongue has been widely debated. It does not say the provision is compulsory but it should depend on regional circumstances and national systems.

The directive calls for a statement of intent that facilities could be provided for children of immigrant workers from outside the EEC.

Dr. Khan, director of the Linguistic Minorities Project at London University's Institute of Education, says the debate has involved parents and bodies from various minorities organizations providing and expressing views.

The Coordinating Committee for Mother-tongue Teaching, involving European, South Asian and other minorities, was founded in 1976.

The Department of Education and Science has founded a project teaching the mother tongue in schools in Bradford.

Development appears to be in favour of bilingual education as a transitional measure to help the move to English. Instruction in the mother tongue enables the normal curriculum to be carried on while English is taught as a second language.

"The type of scheme, as yet unknown in Britain, that aims at maintenance and literacy of the mother tongue, would involve, some would argue, the ongoing use of both languages as mediums of instruction throughout the school."

Results of research among Finnish children in Sweden indicate, for example, that those children who had the opportunity to develop their mother tongue were the best learners of Swedish. "These results suggest that, at least in this situation, children will not learn the second language properly unless they first develop their mother tongue."

Journal of Multicultural and Minority Development (Tieto Ltd, 4 Bellevue Mansions, Bellevue Road, Clevedon, Avon, BS21 7NU. Annual subscription for individuals, £5.50).

Lord Butler calls for new law on arranged killers

Our Home Affairs Correspondent

Government failure to act on recommendations by the Committee on Abnormal Offenders is criticized by Lord Butler.

Saffron Walden, the committee's chairman, said: "He spoke to the Griffiths inquiry in London of 'worn-out work' and 'worn-out failure to interpret legislation a new formula to guide judges in sentencing murderers whose minds were disordered. Judges rely on the McNaghten Rules, made in 1840. We are informed by many who see that these rules were outdated," Lord Butler said.

His committee, he said, is of a protective environment for inadequate in local psychiatric hospitals. Sometimes they were glad to get back to prison, where they and the routine familiar.

Lord Butler spoke of delay providing security units for mentally disordered. "It is years since those proposals have been accepted by a considerable body of public opinion." He hoped the Government would not neglect that recommendation.

No-go areas for NF seen as desirable

By Our Home Affairs Correspondent

Mr. Maryn Rees, shadow Home Secretary, said yesterday that there were certain areas of high immigration where the National Front should not be allowed to march.

He spoke of a Commonwealth Institute seminar on race relations that it would be difficult, however, to frame legislation to cover such a ban.

Speaking more generally about demonstrations, he said: "As Home Secretary I would not want to take the basic decision on whether to ban a march. It would be done on a subjective basis because the Home Secretary did not like the views expressed."

He spoke of the need for leadership in race relations because, left to itself, "there is very strong anti-immigrant and anti-colour feeling in this country."

Mr. Rees explained that he was not saying that people with those feelings would support the National Front necessarily or that such people were racist. He said such feelings in the context of withdrawal from Empire and a greater sense of insecurity.

Dublin synod in favour of ordaining women

Our Correspondent

The Dublin and Glendalough diocese of the Church of Ireland voted in favour of the ordination of women to the priesthood at its meeting on Sunday. It has also voted in favour of the remarriage of divorced persons in diocese.

The Archbishop of Dublin, the Rev. Henry McAdams, said the matter of ordaining men to the priesthood ought to be decided on the basis of women's rights. "This has to do with the question of ordination. Nobody, man or woman, has a right to ordination."

It has been argued, he said, that there were no fundamental objections to the ordination of women, but that was not to say that there were no theological objections, which were not fundamental but which mattered to many people.

He said that a committee which had been examining the question of ordination over the past few years had noted that elsewhere in the Anglican Communion it had proved to be divisive.



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MAKE THE MOST OF ENERGY

HOME NEWS

European transport chief calls on Britain and France to make Channel tunnel decision this year

By Michael Daily
Transport Correspondent

In a strong appeal to Britain and France to reach early agreement on the Channel tunnel, Mr Richard Burke, the European Economic Community's Commissioner for Transport, said yesterday: "The time has come to make up our minds. The time is historically attuned to this great enterprise."

Speaking in London in the first of a series of press conferences to stimulate public interest in the project, Mr Burke, formerly the Irish Republic's Foreign Minister, said he wanted to "get a decision this year or go down as the guy who tried and failed."

While it was for the Government to decide whether to go ahead, the EEC would give strong support to a proposal of positive benefit to the Community's trade and tourism, he said.

The extent of EEC financial support would be for the Community to decide, there were several possibilities in the form of loans or grants. They should be seen as a longer rather than a short-term response to Britain's budgetary difficulties with the EEC, and would not preclude short-term help for other transport projects.

Mr Burke declined to choose between the different kinds of



Mr Richard Burke: "The Community will benefit."

Channel link, as that also was for the Government to decide, but said that the study for the commission by the consultants, Coopers and Lybrand, showed that all would pass the test set by the Treasury for public sector projects.

The single-rail tunnel proposed by British and French railways had a particular attraction as the most modest of the

schemes, and one well within budget possibilities in inflationary times.

It would have the highest rate of return overall and cause least disturbance to the environment, but would do little for car and lorry transport.

A common sense solution might be an interim single-rail tunnel which could later be extended to a double tunnel or tunnel-bridge.

Mr Burke said it was clear from the Coopers and Lybrand study that the project would benefit the Community overall, although the main advantages would obviously go to Britain and France. Other members would benefit when industrial activity and trade were taken into account.

The net effect would be that a tunnel-bridge would make the Community as a whole better off, and even if Britain and France were to receive aid for the project, the benefits to the other members could offset it.

He was pleased that members of the European Parliament had consistently given the proposal strong support. The Council of Ministers was due to meet in June, possibly a critical date for those who believe the Channel link was long overdue.

"My job is to push as hard as I can," Mr Burke said. "Let us decide to do it or stop messing about."

Old Father Thames gets a bank account

By Alan Hamilton

A film appeal fund was launched in London yesterday to provide a comfortable pension for Old Father Thames and to help to eradicate the scars of a lifetime's drudgery as a commercial highway and public rubbish tip.

London's prime natural asset, its river, is now cleaner than it has been for centuries, as industry has gravitated downstream to the sea. But although the water is pure enough for salmon to breathe, the Thames banks and islands still in many places carry the stigma of neglect.

The Thames Heritage Trust, set up and registered as a charity last year, announced yesterday that it had received donations worth £100,000 towards its target, together with the offer of a site worth £250,000 at Kingston upon Thames to build a Thames educational centre, museum and possibly an aquarium.

The fund is supported by a number of industrial and commercial companies on or near the river, and the appeal was set rolling last year with a £1,000 donation from Barclays Bank at Windsor.

Last month the trust carried out its first project, the planting of trees at Teddington Lock, where the tidal Thames meets the sleeper upper reaches. Future projects are likely to be on a similar small scale, dealing with the erosion of riverbanks, replacement of riverside trees, conversion of old gravel workings into marinas and the removal of driftwood and rubbish from the water.

The trust has made itself studiously non-political. Mr John Coleman, chairman of the fund and of a riverside electronics company at Feltham, said yesterday: "There is a need for people to be more conscious of the dangers of pollution, and to have more respect for the river."

"It is up to us, the public, to take the necessary action, and we need the trust to be able to provide professional advice and financial resources free from any political or government influence."

Mrs Margaret Powell, the trust organizer, said the trust's purpose was to act chiefly as a bank rather than a pressure group.

Open government 'might erode neutrality of civil servants'

By Peter Hennessy

A confidential report on open government prepared for the Association of First Division Civil Servants (FDCS), the union representing Whitehall's senior administrators, economists, statisticians and lawyers, has found that the "Civil Service could probably live with a freedom of information Act without too much difficulty".

The FDCS is given a warning, however, that disclosure of private advice by civil servants to ministers on contentious policy issues could have serious constitutional implications, leading to political influence on senior Whitehall appointments and the erosion of the tradition of a politically neutral Civil Service.

The report, which the FDCS executive committee decided last week to keep secret, was drafted by a team of three chaired by Mr Stephen Linstead, an assistant secretary at the Department of Trade. Its other members were Mr Brian O'Brien, chairman of the FDCS, and an assistant solicitor at the Law Commission, and Mr Lawrence Brandes, an under-secretary at the Department of Education and Science.

Mr Linstead, in a research paper on which the report was based, suggests that to avoid expensive litigation a British freedom of information Act should be administered by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration (the Ombudsman).

It might also be desirable to carry out a pilot study in one or more departments to gauge the extent of public demand for

disclosure of documents, and thus provide a more reliable estimate of the cost of a more general scheme," he adds.

The research paper was originally intended for circulation to FDCS members as a discussion document. The FDCS executive committee decided last Thursday, however, that its release would not be timely. Mr John Ward, the association's general secretary, explained:

"The executive thought it was an extremely valuable reference paper. They felt, however, that it was not a subject of overriding interest to members at the moment, as they are primarily concerned with pay and pensions. On

the other hand, the committee is aware that open government could become a live issue at any moment, so the report should be kept on file."

Mr Linstead believes that three results are possible if, under a British freedom of information statute, official advice to ministers was disclosed:

1. Officials would offer advice on roughly the same basis as at present. Parliament and the media would take note, and might criticise the advice given, but there would be no outside attempts to have particular officials removed, promoted or rewarded on account of the advice rendered. Ministers would remain responsible for defending their decisions in Parliament.

2. Officials would offer advice on the same basis as before, but attention focused on this advice (perhaps out of context) would make it difficult for certain officials to remain in particular posts or to be appointed to others. In the long run the senior ranks of the Civil Service, whether filled by career civil servants or from outside, would become posts of political confidence.

3. Because of developments at (2) or in anticipation of them, officials would offer balanced but totally anonymous advice, reserving their personal views for unrecorded interviews with ministers or their colleagues.

Mr Linstead concludes that political security would play a part in senior Whitehall appointments if advice was disclosed. At present officials were appointed under the Royal Prerogative and it would be easy for ministers to sidestep the Civil Service Commission, the watchdog since the last century against political patronage in Whitehall.

Mr Stephen Linstead: Call for study on disclosure.

helped by collusive employers who take on casual staff knowing that they are already drawing benefit.

Professor David Donaldson, chairman of the Supplementary Benefits Commission, said on the programme that any government that meant business about tackling social security fraud must go for the employers.

But Mr Howell said that various studies conducted when Mr Stanley Orme was Minister for Social Security and ordered special emphasis on that work, had failed to find ways of tackling it where the return outweighed the extra effort put in.

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Scum and Stop join forces against Dig

By Kenneth Gosling

The archaeological estate yesterday started a campaign to persuade public that hunting for treasure with metal detectors not only antisocial but harmful to the national tag.

On a more practical level, it was pointed out that a crack of gold average searcher is more to wind up with a bin or a handful of ring pull beer cans.

Yesterday's press conference by Stop (Stop Taking On) had been anticipated on day by the metal detector Dig, which managed a campaign material. Two representatives who attended the conference told to leave.

The battle lines were drawn up by Stop. "It is hunting in the news," the statement said. "First it is Irish chalice, now a and all informed statements out by Dig. Against Dig ranged the forces of St

Mr Peter Addyman, Standing Conference of Managers (Scum), representative of professional archaeologists, said: "We are appalled by the thought one of the biggest of our archaeological heritage is not quarries, motor new buildings in town, but hundreds of thousands of people with metal detectors going out at weekends with the best intentions of interest or value."

Britain was an archaeological site which contained potential for working it. Mr Henry Cleary, director of the Council for British Archaeology, said metal detecting was a big business. It was estimated that there were 130,000 detectors and many were licensed. The intention was to persuade people that detectors responsibly and result in untold wealth, would reveal more about village and rural history.

Mr Kenneth Barton, of Shire County Museum, plundering objects from ground was "robbery violence".

Man jailed for life after second killing

From Our Correspondent
Nottingham

Harold Blackburn, aged 43, who was jailed for seven years 11 years ago for killing a widow, was sentenced by Mr Justice Balcombe at Nottingham Crown Court yesterday to life imprisonment for another killing. The judge recommended that he serve at least 15 years.

Mr Blackburn, a labourer, of Wensleydale Road, Long Eaton, Derbyshire, was convicted of the murder of Mrs Bernadine Gayle, aged 50, at her home in Bennett Street, Long Eaton. He had pleaded not guilty.

Former mayors for trial on corruption charges

Two former mayors of Port Talbot, West Glamorgan, two businessmen and two companies were committed for trial at Cardiff Crown Court by Mr Alan Phillips, the Mid Glamorgan Stipendiary Magistrate, yesterday on conspiracy and corruption charges. Bail was allowed.

The accused are the former mayors, Graham Griffiths, aged 70, of Bromhill Street, and James Hughes Warren, aged 52, of Acacia Close, both Port Talbot; Clifford John Thomas Brown, aged 51, a company director, of Owls Lodge Lane, Maylis, Swansea; and Peter Wyndham Gash, aged 53, a company director of Merthyr Mawr Road, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan.

Also charged are two companies, Transwide Travel Ltd, of Forge Road, Port Talbot, and Andrew Scott (Civil Engineers), of The Grange, Port Talbot.

The four men and the two companies face a total of 45 charges.

Mr Michael Ryan, for the prosecution, said there were 46 witnesses and 1,300 exhibits. It is alleged that the two former councillors received free accommodation and meals at several London hotels between the beginning of 1971 and the end of 1974.

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Eton's nuclear shelter 'not big enough'

Boys at Eton College have been told that the school has a secret underground blast shelter as a safeguard against nuclear attack, but the bunker, with thick reinforced concrete walls and an elaborate network of passages and compartments, could house less than half the boys.

Jonathan Bond, a pupil writing in the *Eton College Chronicle*, states that 500 could be crammed into the "man-made rabbit warren". The other 700 would have to seek refuge in bomb shelters built during the past war and now used as gardening sheds, bowling alleys or for storing junk.

He says: "Recent political events demand that the school make the necessary provisions and conversions where appropriate to ensure that every member of the school would have a place in some sort of nuclear shelter."

Cook gets 'life' for ship murder

John Joseph McMullan, aged 30, a ship's second cook, who was said to have used one of his galleys knives to murder a fellow seaman on board a ferry, was jailed at the High Court in Dumfries yesterday for life. He denied murder but the jury, by a majority verdict, convicted him.

Mr McMullan, of Havana Walk, Belfast, went to the cabin of Able Seaman Charles Axon, aged 45, after a dispute in the crew's mess over lack of service at the dining table. It was stated, on his deathbed Mr Axon said Mr McMullan stabbed him.

Woman trapped in pit

Mrs Ethel Jones, aged 76, was trapped for an hour yesterday with a broken leg when she fell into a 15 feet pit that opened in the garden of her home in St Paul's Cray, Kent.



"I'd planned to have enough. But these days I have to have some left."

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WEST EUROPE

French try to forestall
Thatcher budget
strategy at summit

From Michael Hornby
Paris, March 12

In an intensification of the Anglo-French war of nerves over the next EEC summit, France today deployed a strategy to forestall a French proposal for a "fourth" proposal for resolving the summit over the contribution to the Community budget.

A statement issued after the weekly meeting of the French cabinet said that, unless such a proposal was forthcoming within a reasonable period of time, France would refuse to consider it or any other proposal which might be put forward during the summit discussion in Brussels on March 12 and April 1.

A spokesman for the Commission has expressed "puzzlement" at the French statement. It was noted that the Commission had submitted a paper last week to the EEC Council of Ministers suggesting the opening of a special credit line in the budget through which to channel extra Community expenditure in Britain.

The paper identified transport infrastructure, the coal industry, urban renewal and development projects in Northern Ireland as the most suitable areas for such expenditure, which could be designed to raise the level of British receipts on the budget, three-quarters of which is spent on agriculture.

It appears that the French do not consider this specific enough to count as a formal

proposal and are looking to the Commission to suggest what it thinks would be a reasonable reduction in Britain's estimated net contribution to the budget this year of £1,300m.

The Commission spokesman said that the ideas in the February paper would be developed further before the summit in the light of discussion of them next week by EEC finance and foreign ministers. But the Commission did not accept that it was under any obligation to put a total figure on the amount of financial relief Britain should be granted.

At most, the spokesman indicated, the Commission might submit a list of possible EEC spending projects in Britain, with estimates of their cost, leaving it up to heads of government to choose from among them.

Mr Roy Jenkins, the Commission president, has always resisted pressure to put a figure on the amount of relief Britain demands, mainly because of the unlikelihood—well known to the French—of his finding majority support in the Commission for anything close to what Mrs Thatcher is demanding.

Observers here saw the latest French move as being designed first to restrict Mrs Thatcher's room for manoeuvre in advance of the summit, and second, to provide an excuse if needed for refusing to meet the British demands at the summit. The French could argue that they had not received a proper proposal from the Commission.

Paris to hold out against
Britain on lamb dispute

From Charles Hamroye
Paris, March 12

France will not yield anything in the dispute over imports of lamb, a ministerial meeting has decided in discussions to prepare for the European summit in Brussels at the end of this month, ministers decided today.

The French government has decided that no concession would be made to Britain so long as it is opposed an equitable and effective solution of this problem, the official statement said afterwards.

Sheep farmers have the right to the same protection as cattle farmers.

The meeting also concluded that the price increases for farm products proposed for this year, the European Commission are inadequate, especially for wheat. It wanted a price rise which would make it possible to maintain the purchasing power of French farmers in 1980. As for the difficulties of the European budget, the statement said that France had put forward a programme of savings and proposals to reduce the net

burden on the European agricultural fund: to "reduce the burden of milk products".

M. Pierre Méhaignerie, the Minister for Agriculture, was given the mission of obtaining in coming negotiations a reinforcement of the three fundamental principles of the common agricultural policy, which are threatened in the government's view by the policy of the British Government, namely: unity of price, financial solidarity and Community preference.

The prospects of a compromise agreement on Britain's budget problem, on matters such as fish and other controversial issues, are therefore almost nil, the more so that the French Government, as President Giscard insisted on television recently, regards them as part of a package, and will not settle on one without agreement on the others.

Mr Raymond Barre, the French Prime Minister, said last week that France was "going to be rock hard on sheep", and added that it was not the only thing on which France would adopt such a stance.

Wide support by
Euro-MPs for
single passport

From David Wood
Paris, March 12

All the main groups in the European Parliament today supported the long discussed proposal for a European Community passport. The British government supports it also, except that it wants any Community passport to include the credit card type of passport, which can be "reset" by a machine and which the International Civil Aviation Authority would introduce as soon as possible.

The British Foreign Office, in discussions that began six years ago, now agrees to the principle of a common format passport, the nine, although it wants to include at the front the basic passport card favoured by the ICAO. In that way, it is argued, it would have distinctively British passports with the benefit of quicker processing at ports of entry.

Cardinal goes
to Moscow
for church talks

From Our Correspondent
Rome, March 12

While one cardinal is in China, another flew today to Moscow at the head of a delegation to participate in theological discussions as guests of the Russian Orthodox Church.

"Local church, Universal church" is the theme of the talks, which, on the Roman Catholic side, will be conducted by a team under Cardinal Jan Willebrands, president of the Secretariat for Christian Unity.

Cardinal Willebrands is accompanied by Mr Antoine Bevilacqua, a Canadian, who is Archbishop of Saint Boniface and member of the Secretariat; Mr Lucas Moreira Neves, a Brazilian, secretary of the Congregation for Bishops; and five other prelates.

Meanwhile Cardinal Franz Konig of Vienna is on a private visit to China.

Fugitive brothers said
to owe £33m in tax

From John Keady
Rome, March 12

The Italian Parliament yesterday said that 32 companies belonging to the Calabrone brothers—three building contractors who went abroad to escape arrest—owed taxes amounting to about £33m in the period 1974-76.

Most of this was unpaid company tax, and the rest unpaid value added tax, according to Ignazio Franco Reviglio, the finance minister, who was replying to questions about subsequent financial years was not available.

Gaetano, Camillo and Francesco Calabrone obtained more than £200,000m (£100m) in loans which have not been repaid to Italcas, the Central Institute of Savings Banks, and 9 of the brothers' companies

have been declared insolvent with an exposure of about £100,000m.

The brothers are central figures in the so-called Italcas scandal, which has brought the arrest of 40 leading bankers and industrialists and the resignation of Signor Franco Evangelisti, an associate of Signor Giulio Andreotti, as Minister of Merchant Marine.

Signor Evangelisti admitted taking money from Signor Gaetano Calabrone, but said many other Christian Democrats did so.

Parliament has so far refused to lift the immunity of the treasurer of the Christian Democratic Socialist, Social Democratic and Republican parties, which would allow their alleged involvement in the Italcas affair to be investigated.

Liberals court Greek party

From Mario Mediano
Athens, March 12

A delegation from the British Liberal Party arrived in Athens today to explore the possibility of associating with the ruling New Democracy party when it joins the European community.

The delegation, which is led by Mr Russell Johnston, the Liberal Member of Parliament for Inverness, includes Lord

Gladwyn and Lord Baines, as well as a number of representatives of groups linked to the Liberal Party.

The New Democracy party of Mr Karamanlis, the Greek Prime Minister, draws its strength mainly from the conservative elements, but as it aspires to encompass also the centre of the Greek political spectrum, the initiative of the British Liberals is flattering.

Pink granite coast should be clean in time for tourists

Soldiers with buckets and spades
dig oil from Brittany beaches

From Ian Murray
Ploumanach, Brittany
March 12

The walrus and the carpenter would weep like anything to see such quantities of oil-soaked sand. Fortunately there are more than seven miles with seven mops available and everyone hopes it will take much less than half a year to sweep it clean.

By now there should be at least 1,000 French soldiers deployed along the 10 miles or so of coastline worst affected by the 3,000 tonnes of black heavy oil which escaped from the tanker Tanco when it broke in two in Channel storms last Friday morning.

Helped by many volunteers, they are now operating according to the Palmer plan, which was drawn up to deal with such oil pollution after the wreck of the Amoco-Cadiz, almost exactly two years ago.

These soldiers on the beaches are armed with the most modern equipment known for dealing with heavy oil when washed ashore—buckets and spades.

This little fishing village, at the centre of what is rightly called the pink granite coast, is once more at the centre of a black oil tide.

The whitewashed and stone houses circle the little sheltered harbour, in which the greasy water daily reflects the painted hulls of fishing boats and pleasure launches. The lichen on

the pink rocks is black, shiny and doubtless dead by now. A fresh mark, straight as a Plimsoll line, shows where the last high tide reached up the banks.

Behind the headland on St Guirec beach, the soldiers are at work in bright yellow, dirty oilskins, shovelling the black muck, thick as chocolate sauce, into green, plastic buckets. Others drive bulldozers back and forth, sloshing the oil water up the beach. Vast sheets of black plastic are spread over the beach walls in pessimistic anticipation of next week's high spring tides.

The soldiers shovel frantically, powerless as Canute before the advancing tides. Their orders are to put as much of the oil as possible into their buckets. These are emptied into waiting lorries to be carried inland and poured into plastic-lined trenches out of harm's way.

The next tide brings in yet more oil, but all the time the amount at sea is diminishing. By the end of the month, they hope, it will be gone.

On a grassy knoll, overlooking the beach, stands M. Jacques Barrot, a one-legged seaman, who laughs at the soldiers' efforts. He has seen this before—in 1967 when Torrey Canyon oil 18in thick arrived on the beach and again two years ago when part of the Amoco Cadiz cargo washed ashore.

"Poor lads", he says. "They are only conscripts and don't

know what they're doing. They should dynamite the rocks out there, seal off the beach and scoop it all up. But they are conscripts and therefore they cost nothing an ophar is why we've got them. This mess is all a question of money in the end."

This pretty coastline was designed by nature to catch tourists and well as oil and the great fear locally is that bad publicity about the Tanco will ruin the summer season. In consequence the authorities are anxious to say that the oil ashore along the coast is not very serious. Compared with other years it is not.

Certainly the one-legged fisherman who knows about these things, is not over-worried. "They'll even be catching more fish than usual", he said. "Fish always follow the oil although you can't always eat what you catch, unless you want heartburn."

The pink granite coast should be clear again by the start of the season and tourists can look forward to using their buckets and spades.

Portion decked: The stern half of the Tanco was safely docked in Le Havre today by tugs.

Work was expected to begin soon on pumping out the 13,000 tons of oil in its seven tanks.

The sunken portion, still in the sea, contains another 10,000 tons of oil, which is expected to pose no immediate threat of pollution. — Agence France-Press.

OVERSEAS

Failure of
Mr Botha
to oust
rival

From Our Correspondent
Cape Town, March 12

An uneasy peace is in force between the warring factions in the National Government following a cabinet session yesterday and a meeting of the National Party parliamentary caucus today, at which it was agreed to close ranks.

Although no details have been made public of either meeting, it is plain that the Prime Minister, Mr P. W. Botha, who was seeking to oust his troublesome right-wing colleague, Dr A. P. Treurnicht, found himself unable to do so without risking a split in the National Party.

Observers here see Mr Botha's failure to get rid of Dr Treurnicht, leader of the National Party in Transvaal, as a blow to his credibility. Dr Treurnicht, who has been opposing Mr Botha's reformist policies, commands a formidable power base. He now is free to carry on as a member of the Cabinet, inhibiting

Unless he subsequently moves against Dr Treurnicht, Mr Botha will be in danger of becoming a captive of the party's reactionary right wing, unable to pursue his plans for constitutional reform.

The latest Treurnicht-Botha row stems from comments made by Dr Treurnicht in which he opposed plans for Coloured (mixed-race) teams to play against white teams in an annual rugby tournament. Mr Botha publicly rebuked Dr Treurnicht.

Apartheid law review
agreed by churches

Four of the principal churches in South Africa have announced that they will have no objection if the Government reconsiders the laws which bar set and marriage across the colour line. The Immorality and Mixed Marriages Acts are considered pillars of the apartheid system.

The Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk group of churches, meeting in Cape Town, declared: "On the ground of the decisions of the four churches it can be considered that should the authorities decide that the circumstances were propitious to reconsider these Acts, the churches would have no objections in principle against the re-examination."

Both the Acts have caused untold hardship and heartbreak in the past.

They have come in for strong criticism as being among the most offensive of apartheid laws which Mr Pieter Botha, the Prime Minister, has pledged to remove from the statute book.

At the same time the four churches—the NGK (for whites), the NGK in Afrika (for blacks), the NGK in Afrika (for mixed race people), and the Reformed Church in Africa, representing Indians—are concerned about their own relationship.

There have been several defections recently from the white NGK to the black NGK, notably by the banned former moderator of the Transvaal Synod, the Rev Beyer Naude, who has forsaken the white church for a black congregation.

Dr F. O'Brien Geldenhuys, Moderator of the white NGK, refused to make any comment on the Cape Town statement. It is considered, however, that the churches are concerned more with their own unity than with giving a guide on the sex law issues to the 3.5 million Afrikaners who are members.

Dr Obote to fight election

From Our Correspondent
Nairobi, March 12

Dr Milton Obote, the former Ugandan President, who has lived in exile in Dar es Salaam since being overthrown by former President Amin in 1971, confirmed today that he would lead his Uganda People's Congress (UPC) in the Ugandan elections which are due to take place by June 1981.

In one of his rare public comments, Dr Obote said in Dar es Salaam that he would return to Uganda once the election date is announced. He believed the UPC was the biggest party in Uganda, and would win the election—making him the automatic candidate for president.

Relations between Tanzania and the Government of President Binaisa in Uganda have been deteriorating recently. Dr Obote says he and the UPC have close relations with Tanzania.

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The SAAB 900 GLS 3 and 5 door hatchback, simulated urban driving—21.8 mpg (13.0 litres per 100 km); constant speed driving 30 mph (48 km/h)—41.2 mpg (6.9 litres per 100 km); constant speed driving 120 mph (193 km/h)—33.5 mpg (8.7 litres per 100 km).

The SAAB 900 GLS 3 door hatchback, simulated urban driving—24.1 mpg (11.2 litres per 100 km); constant speed driving 30 mph (48 km/h)—41.2 mpg (6.9 litres per 100 km); constant speed driving 120 mph (193 km/h)—33.5 mpg (8.7 litres per 100 km).

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OVERSEAS

'Sunshine-state' victories for Mr Carter and Mr Reagan cast a gloom on other candidates

From David Cross
Miami, March 12
The results of voting in yesterday's presidential primaries in three Southern states, which produced more handsome victories for President Carter and Mr Ronald Reagan, offered little comfort to the losers.

Mr George Bush, former director of the Central Intelligence Agency, in particular, who spent last weekend in Florida after polls showed he might be closing the gap on Mr Reagan, received less than a third of the votes in that state. Mr John Anderson, a congressman from Illinois, who never campaigned at all in the "sunshine" state, finished a respectable third with 9 per cent of the votes after his recent successes in the North.

The story was much the same for Senator Edward Kennedy, who could muster only a 23 per cent share of the vote in Florida, compared with 61 per cent for Mr Carter. Nearly 10 per cent of Democrats in this state showed they were discontented with both candidates by casting "no preference" votes.

In Georgia and Alabama, the margins of victory for Mr Carter and Mr Reagan were even more impressive. The President's home state gave him an overwhelming 88 per cent share of the vote, against a meagre 9 per cent for Kennedy; in Alabama, the President's victory was only slightly less overwhelming—82 per cent to 13 per cent.

Georgia handed Mr Reagan his biggest share of the votes in the three primaries—73 per cent, compared to 13 per cent for Mr Bush and 9 per cent for Mr Anderson. In Alabama, where Mr Bush had also campaigned actively during a final whistle-stop tour of the South, the former

Governor of California gained 69 per cent of the vote, against 26 per cent for his leading rival.

When the results were relayed to Mr Reagan at his home in California last night, he was almost speechless. "I didn't dare let myself hope for it," he told his supporters in Florida by telephone. Asked in a television interview whether he still regarded Mr Bush as an important opponent, he seemed doubtful.

For Mr Bush, who has scored only one modest win in Massachusetts since his early victories over Mr Reagan in Maine and Iowa, the Florida result was a bitter disappointment. He could say only that he would continue "to plug away" at the task of picking up delegates to the Republican national convention in Detroit this summer. "I might surprise people in Illinois," he added.

Senator Kennedy, who expected to do badly in all yesterday's primaries, felt it politic not to appear before reporters to comment on the outcome. Instead, Mr Patrick Lucey, his deputy campaign manager, said in Washington that the results were "very consistent with our expectations". He reaffirmed that the senator from Massachusetts intended to stay in the race, and he predicted that the economic facts of life would turn the tide against Mr Carter.

Serious economic problems, like high inflation and interest rates, did not appear to feature prominently among the reasons why voters in the South gave their support to President Carter. In general terms, Mr Kennedy still carries the burden of Chappaquiddick and is perceived as a dangerous liberal by the mainly conservative Democratic voters in this part of the country.

The single hopeful sign for the senator's presidential ambitions was that the Jewish voters in Florida rallied to his side in large numbers after the President's mishandling of the Middle East vote in the United Nations. In a few areas of the state heavily populated by Jews, Mr Kennedy managed to beat the President.

The focus of the presidential election campaign now moves north to Illinois, which holds its primary next week. Already the odds are bad for Mr Bush and Senator Kennedy.

On the Republican side, two public opinion polls published by the *Chicago Tribune* and a local television station indicate that Mr Bush is trailing both Mr Reagan and Mr Anderson. Indeed, Mr Anderson, whose liberal credentials have made him a cult figure since his successes in Massachusetts and Vermont a week ago, is slightly ahead of his rivals in his home state.

In Illinois, Mr Anderson and Mr Bush are likely to split the liberal vote and this will inevitably help Mr Reagan, on the conservative wing of the party. Mr Reagan's main concern is no longer Mr Bush. Former President Ford was in Washington today to discuss the possibility of a late entry into the Republican race. If he does decide to run, he could conceivably topple the present front runner, although most political experts believe he may already be too late.

Even in Illinois, where he has the support of Mrs Jane Byrne, the influential Mayor of Chicago, Senator Kennedy is still trailing far behind President Carter. The latest opinion poll shows he has the support of only 23 per cent of the electorate, compared with 62 per cent for Mr Carter.

Leading article, page 17



Former President Gerald Ford leaves his Washington office for Bethesda Naval Hospital for his annual medical check.

Herr Schmidt sees grounds for world optimism

From Gretel Spitzer
Bonn, March 12

Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, and President Giscard d'Estaing of France will meet in Hamburg next Sunday to exchange views on their recent visits to the United States and the Middle East.

The visit to Asia of Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign Minister, will also be discussed, the Chancellor told a press conference today.

Herr Schmidt confirmed that he had received a letter from Mr Brezhnev, the Soviet leader, last week while flying to America for his talks with President Carter and Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General.

Mr Brezhnev's letter of March 4, according to Herr Schmidt, contained a summary of Soviet assessments of a number of international problems and was mainly directed against American policy. It did not contain any indications of a deterioration of German-Soviet relations.

Although Mr Brezhnev presumably wanted to influence his opinion, Herr Schmidt did not believe that he wanted to

suggest that West Germany's role should be as a mediator between the superpowers. The Chancellor rejected such an idea for Germany which was a committed partner in the Western alliance.

The Chancellor reiterated that West Germany remained ready for talks, but the main point was that the two superpowers were talking to each other again.

Dismissing rumours of a deterioration in relations between the United States and West Germany, Herr Schmidt said agreement was reached on all basic questions in Washington. It was important for the public to know that there was no disagreement between Washington and Bonn and that they would stand together in times of crisis and in preparations for the future.

Progress was made on a comprehensive plan for a division of tasks among the West. There were differences, Herr Schmidt admitted, but he emphasized that they did not concern basic questions.

Herr Schmidt renewed the demand that the Soviet Union should withdraw from Afghanistan, as a precondition for improving the international situation. Cooperation between East and West had to continue.

Oarsmen are against boycotting Moscow

By Jim Raiton

Candidates for the British Olympic rowing team want to go to Moscow. They have sent a strongly worded statement to the Amateur Rowing Association (ARA) executive committee asking them to take a firm line and step down from the fence.

The statement, signed by more than 40 Olympic hopefuls, tells the ARA to support the British Olympic Committee and send a team to Moscow. "We have given thorough consideration to the political situation which gives rise to the Government wish to boycott the Olympic Games," the statement says. "We well understand that there are broad issues involved beyond the wish of individuals to participate in the Games. However we feel strongly that if selected we would wish to represent Great Britain in the Olympic Games. We believe too that the ARA should support the British Olympic Committee in its aim to send a British team to Moscow and should agree to the inclusion of oarsmen in that team."

Signatories are said to include Baillieu and Clark, medal hopes in the double sculls; the London Coxless four; the men's and women's eights; Hugh Matheson, single sculls, and most, if not all, the 1980 British rowing team.

The ARA issued a statement after an executive and council meeting just over a week ago. It is apparent that the candidates for the British team feel greatly disappointed that they were not consulted beforehand.

Some oarsmen also resent being used as political pawns. The ARA recommended that if no international solution had been found by early May, a free vote should be taken in the House of Commons.

Although Lord Soames still remains, full legislative and executive powers—and will do so until independence—he has made it clear that he will act in consultation with Mr Mugabe.

Relations between the two men are cordial to the point of developing into a friendship—which is remarkable not only

Mr Mugabe wants to delay independence

From Nicholas Ashford
Salisbury, March 12

Paradoxical though it may seem—bearing in mind the years that Zimbabwe black nationalists fought for independence—Mr Robert Mugabe's government-in-waiting is trying now to delay the day it will finally take the reins of power from Britain.

Lord Soames, the Governor, and his Administration had hoped they could decently leave Salisbury around the end of March and be back in London in time for Easter. That is still officially their intention. However, Mr Mugabe has asked Lord Soames and at least some of his advisers to stay a month longer.

The new Government wants independence to take place on April 23, which is known as "Chimurenga Day", the day of the armed struggle. April 28 is not only of symbolic importance to the Zanu (PF) Party but, more practically, the incoming Government wants to avoid having independence close to but not on that date to prevent there being two public holidays around the same time.

The final date for independence will be for Mr Mugabe and Lord Soames to decide, but the British still want to be away by mid-April. However, they have made it clear that while they are not prepared to stay on indefinitely they will do everything in their power to effect a smooth transition.

Meanwhile the role being played by Lord Soames and his staff has undergone a metamorphosis. Until just over a week ago they were trying to maintain a ceasefire, organise an election and run the country. Now the election is over, Rhodesians have taken over policing the ceasefire and day-to-day running of the country is progressively being handed back.

Although Lord Soames still remains, full legislative and executive powers—and will do so until independence—he has made it clear that he will act in consultation with Mr Mugabe.

Relations between the two men are cordial to the point of developing into a friendship—which is remarkable not only

because of the politics that exists between them, but also because of the squabbles that took place in the election campaign. It was largely because of Lord Soames' influence that Mr Mugabe had earlier decided to stay in Salisbury. A former Prime Minister, Dr. A. B. Moyo, who was a close ally of Mr Mugabe, had earlier said that neither man was a native of white opinion.

The British are turning attention to the sort of situation that can be expected when the new Government first instance this is in military help—another bearing in mind that Zanu guerrillas had obtained most of their assistance from East countries.

Major-General Ken Director (designate) of assistance overseas at the Ministry of Defence, is in Salisbury for London and will submit a report on the country's future to the Home Office.

Initially British help to concentrate on some guerrillas have been sent to Rhodesia for further assistance integration of the with the regular security forces.

Sir James Hough, Governor of the Bank of England, is also looking at the situation in Rhodesia. And a team is to arrive soon on improving the broadcasting network.

Members of British sea Defence, a station called Rhodesia, and a further visit is soon to examine the longer-term economic development of the country. It is not something that could afford to do by Economic difficulties

Rhodesia opens gates to its barbed-wire villages

From Our Own Correspondent

One of the first signs that Rhodesia's seven-year bush war is virtually over and that a new Government is about to take over, became apparent today with the announcement that the gates of all protected villages (PVs) are to be left open forthwith.

PVs, or "keeps" as they were generally referred to by Africans, were among the most disliked symbols of previous white administrations. The villages were based on a concept developed by the British during the Malaya emergency and copied by the Americans in Vietnam and the Portuguese in Mozambique. Their aim was to isolate guerrillas by herding large sections of the rural population into villages which were surrounded by barbed wire fences and protected by armed guards.

The PV policy began in the mid-1970s and by September 1978 there were around 750,000 people living in about 250 PVs, most of them situated in the north and east of the country. The "internals" set up after the March 3, 1978 agreement, opened up a number of PVs in the north-east but this experiment was not pursued because

of the continuing war, there are still believed more than 500,000 people in PVs.

Although PVs did not protect Africans from a protection for the seriously disrupted daily lives. Food and many areas dropped because farmers often walked miles from their cattle to their cattle. Condition of the villages was extremely bad.

The incoming Government has committed itself to the PV policy. It has it would lift the curtain on the rural life. Stay in their homes and work on their farms. Today's statement by the Ministry of Home Affairs would in future be a notion on movement by thousands of PVs, except where the curfew still

However, because of the presence in the side of armed struggle, the future is in the position for the time there would be no of fences. The provision carried out either by district assistants or by force auxiliaries.

Promise of help for poor

Addis Ababa, March 12—Mr

Enos Nkala, who will be Minister of Finance in Mr Mugabe's Cabinet, today promised to divert wealth to the poor in a radical realignment of the Rhodesian economy.

Mr Nkala, who is here for an Organisation of African Unity (OAU) Ministers meeting, said: "There has been economic discrimination. Now there must be discrimination in favour of the poor and against the rich."

He added: "Now that the people have liberated themselves by way of war and the

vote they must receive their share."

He said that one of the first actions would be to take the tax burden off the poor. He aims to prepare a budget for the end of June.

The ordinary people of Rhodesia must feel in the next few weeks that the future is in their hands, Mr Nkala said.

Mr Nkala said: "I will restructure the economy and medical care will be free although there will be no free medical care for the poor."

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World's condemnation of Israeli Settlement Policy on the Occupied Arab Territories

Full text of the United Nations Security Council Resolution No. 446 adopted unanimously by the fifteen members of the council on 1st March, 1980.

The Security Council

Taking note of the reports of the commission of the Security Council established under resolution 446 (1979) to examine the situation relating to the settlements in the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, contained in documents S/13450 and corr. 1 and S/13679.

Taking note also of letters from the permanent representative of Jordan (S/13801) and the permanent representative of Morocco, chairman of the Islamic Group (S/13802), and the permanent representative of the United Arab Emirates (S/13803).

Strongly deploring the refusal by Israel to co-operate with the commission and regretting its formal rejection of resolutions 446 (1979) and 452 (1979).

Affirming once more that the fourth Geneva convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war of 12 August, 1949, is applicable to the Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem.

Deploing the decision of the Government of Israel to officially support Israeli settlement in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967.

Deeply concerned over the practices of the Israeli authorities in implementing that settlement policy in the occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem, and its consequences for the local Arab and Palestinian population.

Taking into account the need to consider measures for the impartial protection of private and public land and property, and water resources.

Bearing in mind the specific status of Jerusalem and, in particular, the need for protection and preservation of the unique spiritual and religious dimension of the holy places in the city.

Drawing attention to the grave consequences which the settlement policy is bound to have on any attempt to reach a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

Recalling pertinent Security Council resolutions, specifically resolutions 237 (1967) of 14th June, 1967, 252 (1968) of 21st May, 1968, 267 (1969) of 3rd July, 1969, 271 (1969) of 15th September, 1969, and 298 (1971) of 25th September, 1971, as well as the consensus statement made by the president of the Security Council on 11th November, 1976.

Having invited Mr Fahd Qawasmeh, Mayor of Al-Khail (Hebron) in the occupied territory, to supply it with information pursuant to rule 39 of provisional rules of procedure.

1. Commends the work done by the commission in preparing the report contained in document S/13679.

2. Accepts the conclusions and recommendations contained in the above-mentioned report of the commission.

3. Calls upon all parties, particularly the Government of Israel, to co-operate with the commission.

4. Strongly deploring the decision of Israel to prohibit the free travel of Mayor Fahd Qawasmeh in order to appear before the Security Council, and requests Israel to permit his free travel to the United Nations headquarters for that purpose.

5. Determines that all measures taken by Israel to change the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure or status of the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, or any part thereof, have no legal validity and that Israel's policy of creating facts on the ground in the occupied territories constitutes a flagrant violation of the fourth Geneva convention relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war and also constitutes a serious obstruction to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

6. Strongly deploring the continuation and persistence of Israel in pursuing those policies and practices which call upon the government and people of Israel to rescind those measures, to dismantle the existing settlements and in particular to cease, on an urgent basis, the establishment, construction and planning of settlements in the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem.

7. Calls upon all states not to provide Israel, with any assistance to be used specifically in connection with settlements in the occupied territories.

8. Requests the commission to continue to examine the situation relating to the settlements in the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, to investigate the reported serious depletion of natural resources, particularly the implementation of the restrictions under occupation, and to keep under close scrutiny the implementation of the present resolution.

9. Requests the commission to report to the Security Council before September 1st, 1980, and decides to convene at the earliest possible date thereafter in order to consider the report and the full implementation of the present resolution.

This advertisement has been issued by the League of Arab States Office.

Iran reasserts demand for return of Shah and fortune

Tehran, March 12—The ex-

tradition of the deposed Shah and the return of his wealth to Iran remain the conditions for the release of the American hostages held at their embassy here.

Ayatollah Mohammad Beheshti told a press conference in Argyle that he had received a letter from the American ambassador in Tehran, which was held by a majority of members of the ruling Revolutionary Council, of which he is secretary.

Ayatollah Beheshti said the conditions remained the same as those set by the students who have been holding the hostages since November 4.

His uncompromising statement came a day after the suspension of a United Nations Commission visit, on which the United States had pinned hopes of an early release of the hostages.

Diplomats seen The Commission members met the three United States diplomats being held in the Iranian capital. The United Nations spokesman disclosed today.

This was the first official word that they had seen any of the Americans held in Tehran during their 17-day stay there.

Profiles of members of Salisbury's next Government

From Our Own Correspondent
Salisbury, March 12

Both the white members of Mr Mugabe's Cabinet were born in Britain and have farming backgrounds.

Mr David Smith was born in Argyle in 1922 and came to Rhodesia as a farm assistant in 1946. He later set up a highly successful farming partnership in the Mazoe Valley and was appointed a member of agricultural committees. He was Minister of Agriculture between 1968 and 1976, after which he became Minister of Finance. He was regarded as one of the most efficient members of Mr Ian Smith's Administration and played an important role in maintaining the stability of the economy.

Mr Dennis Norman was born in Oxfordshire in 1931 and came to Rhodesia in 1953. He owns a number of farms around Karoi, a tobacco area north-west of Salisbury. He has been chairman of a number of agricultural committees and became president of the Rhodesian National Farmers' Union in 1978.

He has been an outstanding success in that post and has played an important part in encouraging white farmers to stay and in continually raising the levels of agricultural pro-

duction. Although not a politician, he was frequently consulted before and during the Lancaster House talks.

Mr Simon Mzenda, the Deputy Prime Minister of Lesotho, is the oldest member of Zanu's national executive and has been involved in black nationalist politics as long as Mr Nkomo. He has a reputation as a conciliator and held the party together during its various crises in the 1970s. He has the confidence of both the military and political wings of the party.

Mr Edgar Tekere, the Minister of Manpower, Planning and Development, is the party's Secretary-General. He is one of the few members of the Manyika tribe in the party's leadership. He joined Zanu in 1961 but went over to Zanu in 1963. He spent most of the decade up to 1974 in detention and left with Mr Mugabe for Mozambique in 1975. He is reputed to be very loyal to Mr Mugabe.

Mr Enos Nkala, the Minister of Finance, was one of only four members of Zanu's central committee to remain in the country during the war. He was in detention for most of that time and was only released after the arrival of Lord Soames. He is a fiery orator and has a reputation for impetuosity.

Mr Simbi Muboko, Minister of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, was the first editor of *Moto*, a Roman Catholic newspaper whose offices in Gwelo were destroyed by a bomb last month. He studied law in Lesotho and Canada and later taught law in Southampton.

Mr Emmerson Munangagwa, Minister of State in Mr Mugabe's office, is probably the most capable administrator in the party and a man to watch in the future. A man of exceptional intelligence, he was condemned to death by a Rhodesian court for alleged subversive activities but the sentence was commuted because of his age.

Mr Richard Hove, Minister of the Public Service, was formerly the party's official representative for foreign affairs and has a wide range of international contacts.

Mr Kumbirai Kangai, Secretary for Labour and Social Welfare, was the party's representative in the United States. He was loosely associated with the dissidents who were detained in Mozambique in 1978 after plotting to overthrow Mr Mugabe as leader, but he severed his links with them before their attempted coup.

Mr Ernest Kadungure, Minister

of Transport and Power, is a former member of the guerrilla army's high command and was in the first group of guerrillas that entered north-eastern Rhodesia in 1971.

Mr Edmond Zvobgo, Minister of Local Government and Housing, was the party's spokesman during the Lancaster House conference. He studied and worked in the United States and later joined Bishop Muzorewa's African National Council but left to rejoin Zanu. His wife.

Dr Sydney Sekeramayi, Minister of Lands, Resettlement and Rural Development, was educated in Czechoslovakia and Sweden and is a doctor.

Mr Nathan Shamuyarira, Minister of Information and Tourism, is the only Zanu minister who is not a member of the party's central committee. That is due to his involvement in the Frontline spinster movement during the 1970s. However, his flirtation with that group was brief and he is now a loyal Mugabe supporter.

Dr Dzimali Muzumbuka, Minister of Education, was educated in Rhodesia, Zambia, Ireland and Britain. He was responsible for providing schooling for thousands of refugee children in Mozam-

bique. He is also a candidate of Mr Mugabe's in the first group of guerrillas that entered north-eastern Rhodesia in 1971.

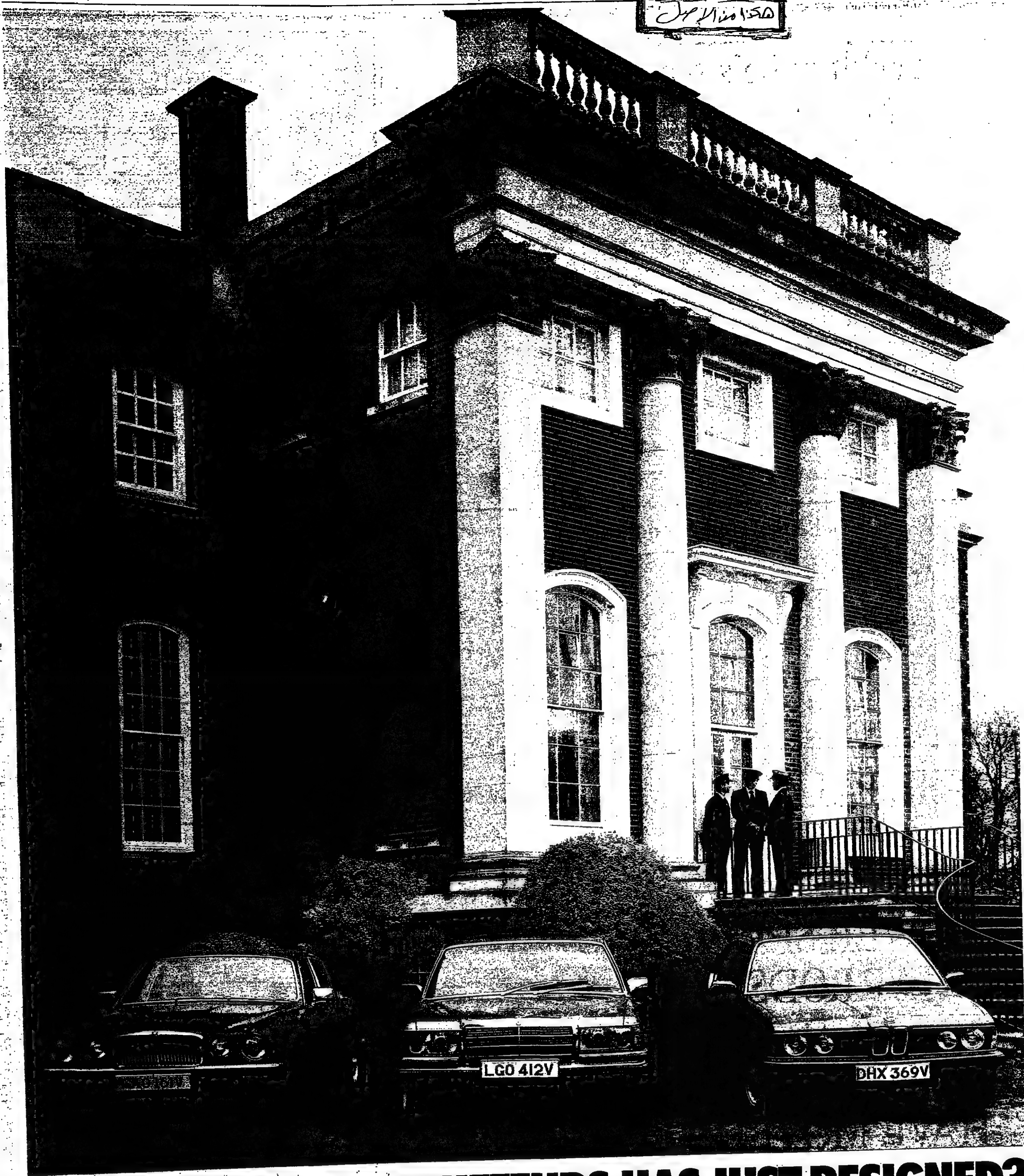
Mr Maurice Nyagumbo, Minister of Health, was born in Gwelo, and later the party's chief medic in Mozambique.

Mr Nkomo's three oldest members of the party have been in detention continuously since 1957: Mr Nkomo himself, Mr Taurai Ropa Nkomo, Minister of Youth, Sports and Recreation, is the party's secretary for women's affairs.

Mr George Silundika, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications, has lived in Zambia since 1963 and has been the external publicity secretary for the past four years.

Mr Joseph Mshinga, Minister of Public Works, is a powerful speaker and a member of the party's secretary for national affairs since 1975.

J.P. 11/10/50



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So you don't use a drop more petrol than you need.

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lard is designed to protect the pedestrian railings. Whereas it would cost around £350 to replace the pedestrian railings, it only costs about £10 to replace the bollard.

He will no doubt be delighted to learn that Westminster City Council shares his concern about the cost and is at present planning to install a "Trief" fish kerb designed to guide the rear wheels of large vehicles away from the kerb line and so prevent damage to the bollard.

The other alternative of taking back both the bollard and the pedestrian railings, would involve colossal sums in reworking statutory services, such as electricity, telephone and gas, and would result in less room for pedestrians.

Yours faithfully,
SHEPHELY PORTER
Chairman,
Highways and Works Committee,
City of Westminster,
PO Box 240,
Westminster City Hall,
Victoria Street, SW1.
March 10.

Law Report March 12 1980

Lonrho is refused discovery of Bingham documents in public interest

Lonrho Co Ltd and Another v Shell Petroleum Co Ltd and British Petroleum Ltd
Before Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Waller and Lord Justice Dunn
Where witnesses at an inquiry set up by the Government have been promised that their evidence will be treated as confidential, it is in the public interest that that confidence shall not be broken by disclosing that evidence for the purposes of private litigation. In such a case the public interest in preserving confidentiality outweighs that of the administration of justice.

The Court of Appeal dismissed an interlocutory appeal by plaintiffs, Lonrho Ltd and Compagnie de Pipeline Mocambique Rodésia SARL from Mr Justice Robert Goff who refused an application for discovery of certain material which came into existence for the purposes of the Bingham inquiry and was used in a pending arbitration in which the plaintiffs claim damages against Shell Petroleum Co Ltd, British Petroleum Co Ltd and 27 other oil companies for non-use of a pipeline from Beira, in Mocambique, to a refinery in Rhodesia.

Mr Mark Littman, QC, Mr Gavin Lightman, Mr Alan Boyle and Mr Michael Briggs for the plaintiffs; Mr Peter Curry, QC, Mr Brian Davenport and Mr Gordon Langley for Shell; Mr Robert Alexander, QC, Mr Roger Buckley, QC, Mr Jonathan Sisson and Mr Stephen Rutledge for BP; Mr Simon Brown for the Attorney General.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the appeal was another episode between Lonrho and Shell and BP over the pipeline built by Lonrho in 1965 to carry oil from

Beira, in Mocambique, to Rhodesia. When Rhodesia declaredUDI the United Nations imposed sanctions to prohibit oil getting to Rhodesia, and the United Kingdom Government made an Order in Council (the Southern Rhodesia (United Nations Sanctions) (No 2) Order 1965 (SI 1965 No 1020)) to enforce those prohibitions.

After newspaper disclosures suggesting that Shell and BP had been breaking the sanctions order, Dr David Owen, then Foreign Secretary, asked Mr T. R. Bingham QC, to conduct an inquiry; and it was held in 1977 and 1978. The inquiry report came out in August, 1978. At about the same time Lonrho started an action against Shell and BP claiming not only damages for breaking the pipeline agreement but also alleging conspiracy to injure Lonrho and break the sanctions order.

That action had been replaced for the time being by an arbitration and was to be heard in June. Last month the Court of Appeal (The Times, February 13) had held that Shell and BP were not bound to disclose lists of documents in the possession of subsidiaries in South Africa, Mocambique and Rhodesia because they were not in the possession or power of Shell and BP. An appeal was to be heard in the House of Lords on April 21.

The present appeal was another aspect of discovery which arose on the Bingham Report. Mr Bingham heard many witnesses, and in addition Shell and BP produced many documents which they had in London and made written submissions.

Lonrho, for the purposes of the arbitration, wanted to see the full transcripts of evidence and all the written submissions. Prima facie they were relevant material which

in the ordinary way would be disclosed in the pending arbitration for they might help Lonrho to prove its case against Shell and BP.

But exception had been taken on behalf of the Attorney General and by Sir Ian Gilmour, Lord Privy Seal, by certificate, to the disclosure of the transcripts of evidence on the ground of the public interest. Mr Justice Robert Goff had held it was such that the documents should not be disclosed.

The essence of the case was the circumstances in which Shell and BP made available to the Bingham inquiry their documents and information and in particular the conditions about their giving evidence. Underlying it was the Order in Council of 1968, under which the inquiry was made. A schedule to the Order made it plain that the inquiry could require people to furnish "any information" or "produce any documents"; but under paragraph 4 "no information furnished or document produced... shall be disclosed" except with the consent of the person by whom the information was furnished or document produced, or on the authority of the Secretary of State or with a view to the institution of proceedings for an offence against the Order.

On April 7, 1977, Dr Owen told Mr Pocock, then chairman of Shell, that he had decided on a private investigation. Mr Pocock assured him of full cooperation to the extent that they had control of the information required.

It was clear that BP were concerned about the extent of the inquiries because they recognized that there was the claim pending by Lonrho and they were anxious that the proceedings should be confidential. Mr Bingham wrote

to BP giving such an assurance. In September, 1977, BP submitted a memorandum to the inquiry stating that someone had got hold of documents who ought not to have them and that "this fact highlights the value which BP attach to the assurances of confidentiality contained in the inquiry's request for information, assurances which are particularly important to BP in view of the evidence of these proceedings as well as for a wide variety of commercial reasons". It was quite plain that Shell and BP promised to give full cooperation on the understanding, implicit if not express, that the inquiry was to be completely confidential.

The inquiry heard evidence; transcripts taken of it were sent to Shell and BP, who sent back comments and submissions. The report acknowledged the cooperation given.

When Government received the report in August, 1978, the Secretary of State thought that it should not be made public, because of the confidentiality of the matter, without the consent of Shell and BP. Both gave their consent, but with qualifications.

Shell wrote: "Every consent expressed in this letter is subject to two general qualifications: (a) It applies to the disclosure of information and documents to the extent only that they are contained in the report of the inquiry and any appendices thereto. Our reason for this is that we are not prepared to publish of any more extensive information or documents which could then be available for the purposes of other proceedings." While at the request of the Government and in the public interest Shell would consent to the report being made public, they would not consent to anything

more than was in the report, for that would obviously be available to Lonrho for the pending arbitration.

Mr Bingham himself realized that what he did not put in would be kept confidential. It was plain that he realized that the report, if made public, should be so worded as not to prejudice others who might be injured by disclosure of confidential information.

Should the transcripts of evidence and the written submissions be disclosed?

For the Attorney General it was said that they should not be disclosed as a matter of public interest; they were given in confidence and they were disclosed so one would ever give information to such an inquiry if confidence was not maintained. The Lord Privy Seal's certificate said that "notwithstanding that the sanctions Order lapsed on November 23, 1979, I consider that in the public interest production in the arbitration or in these proceedings of records or information vouchsafed to Mr Bingham and Mr Gray in consequence of requests by them should be withheld."

The certificate also stated: "It is important to the proper functioning of such an investigation as that chaired by Mr Bingham, and also of many other bodies who have the statutory duty of investigation and of finding facts, that witnesses should not be discouraged from coming forward to give evidence or from giving evidence fully and freely. In my opinion there is serious risk that such witnesses would be discouraged if, despite express or implied assurances of confidentiality, the information which they provide could be made public, and they themselves laid open to possible attack at the suit of anyone with whom they may have

business dealings, including competitors."

His Lordship mentioned his own experience in the Profumo inquiry. He had assured every witness that anything they said would be taken in complete confidence and would not be used except for the purpose of his report. He was quite sure that the witnesses gave their evidence frankly, freely and much more fully than they would have done if that assurance of confidentiality had not been given. The Lord Privy Seal took the same line.

If witnesses had been given assurances of confidence it was of the highest general interest that that confidence should be maintained and not broken into by any specious arguments. His Lordship said in D v NSPCC (1978) AC 171, 190: "In holding the scales of justice, the courts should not allow confidences to be lightly broken. When information has been imparted in confidence, and particularly where there is a pledge to keep it confidential, the courts should respect that confidence and should in no way compel a breach of it save where the public interest clearly demands it, and then only to the extent that the public interest requires."

The court had to hold the balance between two public interests—that in seeing that justice was done between the parties and that in maintaining confidentiality in a case like the present.

The judge had held—and he did not look at the material—that the confidence imposed and reposed in the inquiry by Shell and BP was so important to the whole proceedings that it was a vital public interest that it should be maintained. In passing, his Lordship would say that Lonrho had

gained a great deal of information from that report which they would otherwise have found very difficult to obtain.

Mr Littman submitted that because of the consent given by Shell and BP to parts of documents or transcripts already received only to the extent of what was already in the report and the inquiry and not things outside or behind it, the disclosure should be allowed. Counsel said that the disclosure of the transcripts would be a number of paragraphs in the report which would be of assistance in the administration of justice that they should see. Other parts of the material, because it would assist Lonrho in discharging the burden of proof, but the answer to that was that they were likely to be included in the report before them, and the other side would challenge the accuracy of the quotations from evidence or extracts from it.

Mr Littman said that it would help him and the cause of justice to see the transcripts of the evidence from which extracts were given in the report, the comments on them, and the submissions made to him. His Lordship could see that if he got the material he wanted, he might help him; but on the other hand his Lordship considered that the administration of justice might be affected by the fundamental question of public interest in confidentiality.

His Lordship could see no reason why Shell and BP should not limit their consent. They consented to the disclosure of the transcripts, and his Lordship did not see why they should not withhold

their consent to anything. Any application by the public interest in confidentiality. The appeal should be dismissed.

LORD JUSTICE WALLER, curiam, said that the inquiry was set up by the public interest in confidentiality. It was a private and not a public inquiry. The evidence showed that the disclosure of the transcripts would be of assistance in the administration of justice that they should see. Other parts of the material, because it would assist Lonrho in discharging the burden of proof, but the answer to that was that they were likely to be included in the report before them, and the other side would challenge the accuracy of the quotations from evidence or extracts from it.

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Chancery Division

Need to clarify law on Anton Piller orders

International Electronics Ltd v Weigh Data Ltd
Before Mr Justice Grahame
[Judgment delivered March 6]
His Lordship refused to discharge an Anton Piller order, made by Mr Justice Fox but which it was said, in view of a recent decision in the Court of Appeal, ought never to have been made. Documents had been disclosed in pursuance of the order, and the action before his Lordship had been conducted throughout on the basis that the order had been properly made and the documents properly disclosed. Nevertheless, although his Lordship's judgment had not yet been perfected he refused to order a retrial. His Lordship was giving an additional judgment in a patent action brought by International Electronics Ltd against Weigh Data Ltd, who had obtained the order from Mr Justice Fox.

Mr Jeremy Davies for the plaintiffs, International Electronics; Mr Alistair Wilson and Mr M. Hicks for the defendants, Weigh Data.

HIS LORDSHIP said that on January 17, some five days before the start of the hearing before his Lordship, Weigh Data had obtained an Anton Piller order from Mr Justice Fox for the disclosure and production by International Electronics of certain documents. During the discussion which followed his Lordship's judgment on February 22 as to the appropriate order to be made, he had been informed that, between the conclusion of the hearing and the date of judgment, the Court of Appeal had given a majority judgment in *Rank Film Distributors Ltd and Others v Video Information Centre (a firm) and Others* (The Times February 16) which, although it had not attracted the Anton Piller order made by Mr Justice Fox, Lord Justice Bridge and Lord Justice Templeman, formed the majority, and the Master of the Rolls dissented.

Three classes of documents must be mentioned. First, certain original unit repair sheets, exhibit D5, on which were entered the complaint made by the customer returning an allegedly defective electronic balance for repair, the serial number of the balance, and the description of the repairs as the handwriting of the several witnesses involved. Those documents were alleged to have been lost for some time, but to have been found, and produced, as a result of the Anton Piller order.

Secondly, reconstructed unit repair sheets, D4 and F5, produced by International Electronics in order to satisfy an order for discovery in a Queen's Bench action against them, and which were alleged to have been made up from the third class of documents, namely, management control sheets P1 (a), (b) and (c) and P6 which contained comprehensive information about the units sent in for repair.

The management control sheets had not been disclosed until produced at the trial in an attempt by International Electronics to rebut allegations based on the original unit repair sheets D5. They showed that a number of the substituted D4 sheets omitted material items which appeared both in the original sheets D5 and in the management control sheets P1 (a), (b) and (c).

At the end of the discussion on the form of order it was suggested by International Electronics that, in view of the Court of Appeal decision, the Anton Piller order ought never to have been made; that it should be discharged; and that there should be a retrial, because the documents D5, which, as argued by Weigh Data and as held by his Lordship, were forged, need never have been disclosed, since they would have tended to incriminate their witnesses.

In support of that contention it was said that owing to the way in which the order was obtained, i.e. ex parte, and executed, i.e. without service of any of the

evidence on which the order was made, International Electronics were not given a chance to object on the ground of inadmissibility, whereas evidence would have been made available to the court. Mr Wilson said that might possibly be objected that the order was served before the documents were over that an attack was made at the trial on the evidence of International Electronics had not appealed against the order, or taken objection to production and use of the documents at the trial.

There was no doubt throughout the hearing that the court had proceeded on the basis that the order was properly made and the documents properly produced. The order was not appealed against, and the documents were not objected to at the trial.

Although his Lordship must have not yet been in the drawing up of a judgment, he was sensible to reopen the matter on a different basis. The whole trial had been conducted on the basis of the order, and the documents were not appealed against. The order was not appealed against, and the documents were not objected to at the trial.

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ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, March 10. Dealings End, March 21. \$ Contango Day, March 24. Settlement Day, March 31.
\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

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[illegible]

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

JP 11.50

Wool and the
case for
protection,
page 22

W Germany relaxing exchange controls to attract Opec funds

From Peter Norman
Brussels, March 12

West Germany is planning to scrap some of its foreign exchange controls in the hope of attracting Opec funds into the Deutsche mark.

The move, which is intended to help support the value of the mark on foreign exchange markets, will also bring the country's growing balance of payments deficit on current account, will be discussed tomorrow in Frankfurt at a meeting of the Federal Bank's central council.

Mr Manfred Lohmeyer, the finance minister responsible for monetary affairs, said:

"Existing regulations preventing non-residents from investing in German government securities of less than four years' life will be relaxed to allow foreigners to purchase paper of two years' life or more. The same rules will be applied to the gentleman's agreement between the Federal Bank and commercial banks which has prevented non-residents from investing in Deutsche marks denominated promissory notes of less than four years' life."

The initiative for the change is coming from the finance ministry in Bonn. Exchange control relaxations have to be submitted to the Federal Bank

for formal approval, but there is no doubt in Bonn and Frankfurt that this will be forthcoming tomorrow.

The way in which the German exchange controls have been applied means that the liberalisation could come into effect almost immediately, once the Federal Bank council has given its blessing to the changes.

Technically non-resident purchases of short term fixed interest securities have never been banned. Instead they have been made subject to Federal Bank approval, which has invariably been withheld.

For an interim period, the Federal Bank will, with Bonn's blessing, approve non-resident purchases of securities with a life of between two and four years, pending a change to the order governing the exchange controls. It is thought that this will take about three weeks to come through.

It appears as if the Bonn finance ministry is toying with the idea of eventually dealing directly with selected oil producers by offering them German government paper.

But for the moment it is hoped the exchange control relaxation will in itself attract funds into Germany. In this respect, the example of Switzerland is far from encouraging. A progressive dismantling of

limitations on foreign investment over the past month or so has failed to support the franc in the face of the large interest rate differential between Swiss and dollar securities.

These latest steps mark a U-turn in West German monetary policy. In the past, both Bonn and Frankfurt have sought to discourage official foreign investment in the Deutsche mark.

Today, however, government officials were talking of the planned steps as being deliberately designed to attract Opec funds into Germany, through offering them the oil producers shorter term paper than has been available in the past.

The German monetary authorities have changed their policy with surprising speed, as it is only a few weeks since the Federal Bank was extending the scope of its gentleman's agreement with the banks to block the emergence of the mark as a reserve currency.

Today one Federal Bank official, when reminded of this, remarked: "It is not a matter of point crying over spilt milk."

In fact, the turnaround is a measure of the concern felt about the relative weakness of the mark on foreign exchange markets and the high level of interest rates in the United States.

Shares in retreat on selling worries

By Michael Clark

Jobbers marked prices sharply lower on the stock market yesterday amid fears of strong selling after the recent glut of bad economic and company news.

In the event the selling did not materialize but the result of the mark down was a fall in the FT index of 10.7 to 444.9.

Trading had begun cautiously after mixed comment on the previous day's banking figures, but it was enough to keep most of the big institutional investors on the sidelines.

The market then became nervous after the disappointing full year figures from Turner & Newall which saw a 31 per cent downturn in profits and wiped 16p off the shares at 110p.

Another blow came from the chairman of ICI who said the company was not generating enough cash to maintain its investment programme. This prompted rumours of a rights issue which were discounted in some quarters as "unlikely".

Unbridled securities had a fairly poor day and after a hesitant start finished mainly unchanged.

Oil, on the other hand, recovered from heavy falls earlier in the week with most of the second liners holding up relatively well.

Sentiment was not helped by strong rumours on the trading floor that a broker could be caught out by the good news in the oil sector which has pushed share prices dramatically higher over the past few weeks, but suddenly ended last Thursday.

Typical was the speculative stock Siebens Oil, which crashed from 515p to under 500p at one point.

Gulf Fisheries set for fight over Lornho share-raising plans

By Philip Robinson

Barrie lines are being drawn for the expected confrontation at Lornho's annual meeting tomorrow over the moves by Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland, the chief executive, to increase the authorized share capital and buy half a copper mine in Rhodesia.

Sir Hugh Fraser, House of Fraser group chairman, said last night that the 2.8 million shares, about 1.3 per cent of the total, controlled by his various trusts—Sir Hugh owns no Lornho shares personally—will be voting with Mr Rowland.

The decision was taken at a trust meeting two weeks ago. Sir Hugh said: "This is the way Mr Rowland has built his company up by issuing shares. There is no reason to object to this."

It is also expected that Save and Prosper, a major investing institution, will vote its 3 million shares with the Lornho board.

Last year, Save and Prosper—when at that time had 2 million shares—supported an unsuccessful attempt by Gulf Fisheries, the Kuwaiti controlled company which is Lornho's biggest shareholder, to put two of its men on the board.

The increased holding has been bought in the market and came as a result of the Lornho's successful takeover of Scottish and Universal Investments. Weighed against it will be Gulf Fisheries which holds 41.6 million shares.

Gulf is expected to force a vote on Lornho's plan to create 40 million new shares and raise the authorized capital from £62.5m to £72.4m.

Gulf is likely to argue that there are around 28 million

authorized but unissued shares already, and with no specific acquisition plans it is considered there is no need to create more shares.

It is believed Gulf wants a commitment from the Lornho board that it will not increase the shares until its next interim report when it should have a better idea of profits.

It is reckoned that Lornho could make £120m in the current year and the share price should respond to the half-time figures.

The Kuwaitis also understood to be unhappy with Lornho's plan to spend £12.5m on taking over Mr Rowland's half of the Nyaschere copper mine in Rhodesia. On that point Mr Rowland will be unable to vote his 26 million shares, or the 2.8 million controlled through Mr Daniel K. Ludwig's holding.

Even so Sir Hugh Fraser and Save and Prosper are expected to vote for the deal.

Meanwhile, Mr Philip Tarsh, Lornho director, told financial analysts in Zurich yesterday that Lornho expected £120m to £150m profits this year. Princess Hotels International, in which Lornho bought a half stake last October, should contribute £10m.

He refused to confirm that the group had received offers for its 29.9 per cent stake in the House of Fraser and said Lornho had rarely stayed content with a strategic minority stake in its long

Mr Tarsh told the analysts he could not say how far negotiations between Gulf Fisheries and Mr Graham Ferguson Lacey had progressed, but added that the Kuwaitis would "definitely not be on Lornho's board this year."

Oil tariff likely as US considers measures to raise \$22,000m

From Frank Vogel
Washington, March 12

President Carter could announce his new anti-inflation measures as early as tomorrow night or Friday, according to Administration officials. Public spending cuts and revenue-raising measures of more than \$22,000m are being considered.

It appears probable that the centerpiece will be an oil import tariff of \$4- or \$4.40 a barrel that will raise revenue by at least \$10,000m. The President does not need approval to impose this duty and it may come into force on March 31.

Many of the President's budget-measures, however, will demand Congressional approval. Some of the specific actions that he will almost certainly propose have been heavily rejected by Congress in the past so a bitter and perhaps long battle seems certain.

Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, had a private meeting today with Democratic Party leaders of Congress and top administration officials.

This group has been meeting for the last six days to work out a specific anti-inflation programme. Today was supposed to be the last meeting for this group and the subject was credit controls.

Mr Volcker is believed to have argued forcefully against credit controls and to have reiterated his strong conviction

that a big reduction of budget deficits was essential to boost public confidence in the prospect of greater price stability.

There is talk of limited controls being imposed on the use of credit cards. Outstanding credit card debt is about \$50,000m.

Tentative agreements appear to have been reached on about \$11,000m of budget cuts. Congressional leaders on the Democratic Party side believe they can force through \$2,300m of cuts in Federal grants to state governments, about \$5,000m in general reductions from almost all departments, and an assortment of small cuts. A particularly controversial item is trying to save \$500m a year by ending postal services on Saturdays.

The oil import tariff proposal may spark controversy because its immediate effect will be to raise retail prices and so stimulate inflation.

Estimates suggest that each \$1 a barrel import fee will add 2.5 cents to the retail price of a gallon of petrol and produce \$2,500m of revenue for the Treasury.

Increasing revenue by obtaining much earlier withholding payments on interest and dividends is being considered and banks would be responsible for making the deductions. This could bring in \$3,300m of revenue but when the idea was

last proposed in 1976 it was rejected by the Senate.

One danger to the plan is that Congress will take weeks, maybe months, to deliberate the merits of the cuts and as it does so, economic activity may slump and thereby undermine the political pressure to cut spending and trap inflation.

Prospects of a slump were heightened today by a dismal report on business capital spending plans which shows that real increases in plant and equipment spending this year may be less than two per cent.

The Commerce Department said that its latest survey results show that the nominal rate of increase in business plant and equipment outlays might be held to 11 per cent in 1980, under \$200,000m. This report could trigger new proposals from Republicans in Congress for tax cuts now to boost business investment.

President Carter knows that when he announces his new budget plan he will face an attack from some state governors for forcing them to raise taxes to offset the cuts in their grants from Washington and an attack from liberals in his own party, including Senator Edward Kennedy, for cutting programmes that aid the poor.

Republicans will say he is doing nothing to boost investment incentives.

Murdoch group sells 25pc stake in LWT

By Peter Wilson-Smith

News International, the group which publishes The Sun and News of the World, announced yesterday that it had sold 4.05 million "A" shares in LWT (Holdings) for £4.84m.

The shares, which represented 25.2 per cent of the "A" ordinary capital, were sold through the market for about 119p each. Yesterday the shares closed down 12p at 123p.

The sale will net News International a £3.85m profit over the book value of the shares. It still has an 11.7 per cent stake in the vote capital of LWT (Holdings) and emphasized that the sale of the "A" shares did not reflect any lack of confidence in LWT's ability to get its franchise renewed.

The Independent Broadcasting Authority has already announced new areas to be served under contracts to be awarded at the end of this year. In general the areas were little changed. Applications for the post-1981 contracts are due in by May 9 to the IBA.

The association between Mr Rupert Murdoch, News International chairman, and LWT goes back to the beginning of the 1970s when he injected £500,000 into the group.

In November 1978 News International sold 2.6 million "A" shares in LWT after publication of the Annual report. It was thought that the group would be asked to lower its stake and decided to do so in its own time.

LWT profits for the year to July 31 rose from £6.51m to £6.92m before tax. Profits from television and related activities after deducting the eschequer levy remained static.

However the group benefited from first time contributions from book publishing and tour operations where it has recently diversified. Last year LWT bought 60 per cent of Page & Moy, a travel agent, for £1.5m and in 1978 it paid £3.9m for Hutchinson, the book publisher and printer.

LWT's interim results, due to be announced next month, are likely to be depressed by the impact of the 11-week television strike last autumn.

ICI chairman gives warning on cheap imports threat to plastics

By John Huxley

A warning that the impact of cheap American imports, based on artificially low feedstock costs, will be felt in the European plastics market was given yesterday by Sir Maurice Hodgson, chairman of ICI.

At the same time, he disclosed that the group's synthetic fibres division, whose problems had been exacerbated by a flood of cheap goods from the United States, lost £35m last year. Within this, a £9m provision had been made for restructuring costs—mainly redundancy payments. Group pre-tax profits were £590m.

Sir Maurice said that European producers had incurred much odium in fighting for protection against cheap imports. Yet the quotas recently approved by the European Commission would help very little.

"Competition in this area will continue. Not only are products like fibres directly affected, but the low United States energy cost reflects in the low value of the dollar," he said.

Cheap imports represented a "major long-term threat" and Sir Maurice urged the industry to talk to government so that effects could be anticipated. "Otherwise we will inevitably be limited to trying to recover situations rather than prevent them."

ICI defended itself against accusations that it spent too much time "winging" about competition. It was necessary to start complaining early if the European Commission machinery were to respond in time to most potential threats.

Styrene producers—which do not include ICI—have already asked the Commission to act against imports from the United States. Mr Philip Harvey, a director responsible for plastics, said yesterday he expected cheap imports to have a depressing effect on prices, which were already at unrealistically low levels for some products.

Trading profits also slumped in ICI's organic chemicals division (down from £21m to £7m), which is centred on dyestuff production. Oil earnings, primarily from ICI's Niman field



Sir Maurice Hodgson: company problems exacerbated.

and the inadequate levels of cash flow and of profitability, after allowing for inflation.

Last year's £560m pre-tax profit, measured against the Retail Price Index, would be little more than the £140m surplus recorded in 1970, Sir Maurice said.

Year-by-year investment comparisons can be misleading. ICI has a number of large plants coming on stream this year, in locations including Wilton on Teeside, Dumfries, Wilhelmshaven, and Corpus Christi in Texas.

However, it seems likely that there will be a sharp fall in investment sanctioned during 1980, although Sir Maurice insisted it would continue "at a very high level".

The main thrust of overseas investment last year was concentrated on strengthening the group's position in America. Sir Maurice said the United States remained "the prime market in the world". It was as big as the European Community and six times that of the United Kingdom.

It is hoped to increase sales there from about \$1,000m this year to \$2,500m by the mid-1980s. Mr Robert Haslam, one of ICI's three deputy chairmen, who recently took up residence in the United States, said that the group might grow there through acquisition.

Mr Alan Clements, the main board director responsible for finance, said that although the most attractive growth prospects existed outside the United Kingdom, ICI would not neglect its American base. Apart from spending already sanctioned, there is the possibility of further developments if ICI's oil interests increase.

In the forward to his annual report, Sir Maurice said: "Looking at 1980 and beyond there is considerable uncertainty. Inflation has increased in the OECD countries, and although world output of chemicals rose by 6 per cent in 1979, prospects for growth are poor and there are fears of an economic recession."

Financial Editor and Business Diary, page 23

Bank staff offered 17pc rise

By David Felton
Labour Reporter

More than 270,000 bank employees yesterday offered a 17 per cent pay rise which is being considered by the banking union and the staff associations with further negotiations planned for next week.

Mr Liff Mills, general secretary of the Banking Insurance and Finance Union which represents 180,000 bank workers, said last night: "We have very serious reservations about the offer and the employers' suggestion that this must be a 15 per cent deal is not acceptable to us."

Employers in the four main high street banks and Williams and Glyn's made no offer on the union's claim for a 31 per cent increase for middle grade cashiers, who would have had a knock-out effect on the pay for higher grades. The union's basic claim was for 25 per cent.

Inquiries on suspended investment fund experts

By Alison Mitchell

Investigations were continuing yesterday after the suspension of two of the top investment experts at the £1,000m Electricity Council pension funds. However the council yesterday were playing down the significance of the matter and would only confirm that Mr Liff Mills, general secretary of the Banking Insurance and Finance Union, had said last night: "We have very serious reservations about the offer and the employers' suggestion that this must be a 15 per cent deal is not acceptable to us."

The two men have also resigned from the board of Westmoreland Investments, a private property company whose portfolio was taken over by the Electricity Supply Superannuation Scheme in 1974 after the collapse of the property market. No reason was given by Mr Urwin or Mr Lund for their resignation.

The council funds had a controlling stake in Westmoreland in 1974 and four years later bought out the minority interest from Phoenix Insurance, ICI Pension Fund and Gresham Trust.

The two funds—the Electricity Supply (Industrial Staff) Superannuation Scheme and Electricity Supply (Staff) Superannuation Scheme—control more than £1,000m of investments of which about £500m is in property.

Mr Lund has been a director of Westmoreland for about eight years while Mr Urwin joined the board two years ago. The Electricity Council funds have been involved with the private property company for about 10 years funding several developments, including Brighton Marina.

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Research corporation and industry department back US robots company

Why Britain cannot build its own workers

In the absence of a sufficiently advanced United Kingdom manufacturer of industrial robots, the National Research Development Corporation and the Department of Industry have agreed to back Unimation, the American company which is world leader in this field, in an attempt to get a substantial foothold in this rapidly growing market.

A £420,000 investment by the NRDC in a joint venture with Unimation to build small industrial robots in Telford, Shropshire, was announced yesterday. The Department of Industry is also providing an interest relief grant of £240,000.

Unimation has had a sales and service operation at Telford since 1970, concerned with the company's heavy-duty Unimate robots. The design which will be built at Telford is the

smaller Puma (Programme Universal Manipulation for Assembly) machine, which can pick up components weighing up to 5lb and assemble complete units in a positioning accuracy of four thousandths of an inch.

At a demonstration in London yesterday, Mr William Makinson, NRDC managing director, said that the reason this investment was in an American company was that there was no comparable indigenous United Kingdom manufacturer. The NRDC had been interested in concluding a deal with Unimation for many years.

Mr John Scholes, head of the NRDC's engineering department, said that the corporation was anxious to invest in British companies. Three aspects were relevant in Britain's use of industrial robots.

In the supply of individual robots such as the Puma there was only one British company (Bell Automation of Watford,

Crest Nicholson Limited

The industrial group with interests in property, optical products, pneumatic tubes, sports surfaces, marine services

Major Increase in Profit

	1978	1979	Increase
Sales	£34,036,000	£43,120,000	+27%
Pre-tax profits	2,806,000	4,328,000	+54%
Earnings per share	10.52p	16.74p	+59%
Earnings per share fully taxed	8.17p	12.24p	+50%
Dividends per share	3.71671p	4.08838p	

* 54% growth in profit

* New Acquisition—Crofton Group has out-performed our expectations

* 65% increase in dividend paid following 1 for 2 Rights Issue

* Further significant growth expected this year

Kenneth Owen

Mr Mugabe's

Economic

Problems,

page 23

Stock markets

FT Ind 444.9, down 10.7
FT GNS 64.08, down 0.10

Sterling

\$2.2345, up 75 points
Index 72.5, up 0.3

Dollar

Index 87.4, unchanged

Gold

\$387.5, up \$19

Money

3 mth sterling 171-173
3 mth Euro \$184-185
6 mth Euro \$174-184

IN BRIEF

First main

line rail

contract for

4 years

A Cheshire-based construction group, nearly 30 per cent owned by the Davy Corporation, to build the first main line railway ordered by the United Kingdom since 1826 on a contract worth nearly £30m. British Rail, eastern region, has given the work to A. Monk & Co for a diversion from its east coast main line round the west end of the new Selby viaduct. Work is expected to start in April to be completed by the end of 1982.

Deal Jane reopens

Wheat Jane, the Cornish tin mine which closed nearly two years ago with the loss of 418 jobs, is to go into full production again next January, with work force of about 380. Rio Tinto Zinc has sunk \$5m into the venture and now expects comfortable profit.

actory bid

Mr Mike Egan of the General Municipal Workers' Union, two officials of the former scenario shop stewards committee met Mr John Hamill, leader of Liverpool City Council to discuss a bid for the Bill plant. No statement issued.

Footwear disposal, page 25

Woolworth profits

W. Woolworth has announced profits of £57.2m for the year to January as against £47.5m a year earlier. Sales were up from £m to £386m. A poor third quarter saw profits down by 10 per cent, but then recovered his final quarter by 13.3 per cent to £43m.

Oil energy forecast

World energy demand grows at only about 2.5 per cent a year over the next two decades, compared with economic growth of 3.5 per cent, on Corporation said in its Oil Energy Outlook, published in New York.

from Rhodesia

Turner & Newall, the Manchester-based asbestos group, urged a fall in profits of one third to £57.5m, due to the high interest rates on the strong pound. But T & N is expecting £12m help from its Rhodesian subsidiaries.

output cut

It is to cut back the oil fraction from 2.1 million to 1.1 million barrels a day from 11, it is reported. Speculation is growing of cuts of between 5 and 10 per cent in the oil and Algeria whose oil is used as a benchmark for the sea pricing.

hicle imports up

Imported vehicle increased share of the United Kingdom commercial



New head of Monti group named

Signor Antonio Bisaglia, Italian Minister of Industry, has appointed Signor Alberto Grandi as commissioner to run the troubled oil empire of Signor Arrigo Monti.

Signor Monti's activities include four refineries with annual capacity of 45 million tonnes and a network of service stations bought years ago from British Petroleum.

Signor Grandi, head of the Bastogi financial and industrial group, has held senior positions at the Montedison Chemical Co and at ENI, the state hydrocarbons group.

OECD prices rise

Consumer prices in member nations of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development jumped to 1.5 per cent in January, the highest monthly rate in seven years, and up from 0.9 per cent in December. For the 12 months ended in January the rise was 12.7 per cent.

Tokyo car debate

Mr Yoshitake Sakaki, Japan's international trade and industry minister, believes his country should comply with demands for more Japanese capital investment in the American car industry, and for increased car and car part purchases.

Danish debt interest

Every percentage point rise in foreign interest rates means the Danish government must pay around 240m kroner (about £19m) extra in interest on its foreign debt, Mr Niels Erik Sørensen, a foreign ministry official said in Copenhagen. Denmark estimates a payment of 3,600m kroner this year.

New Iranian field

Iran's national exploration company has struck light crude oil in a new field 35 kilometres north-east of Dezful, in the oil-producing Khuzestan province, a National Iranian Oil Co spokesman said in Tehran.

Investment confidence undermined by government 'indifference'

Wool industry calls for protection

Confidence of wool textile manufacturers to invest in design, marketing and higher productivity has been undermined by the "apparent indifference" of the Government and the European Commission to the industry.

In recent months, there have been a series of closures and redundancies. Imports of wool cloths to the United Kingdom market have risen to more than 45 per cent, according to an economic development committee report published today.

The report, produced for the National Economic Development Council, calls on the Government to provide greater protection from cheap imports and to consider providing wool textile areas with selective assistance.

Imports from low-cost countries are a small proportion of total penetration, but one which is growing rapidly. Cheap imports have potentially serious implications for profits and jobs.

Wool textiles is Britain's sixth largest export. In 1978 it had a turnover of £1,250m and employed more than 73,000 people, concentrated largely in Scotland and West Yorkshire.

The committee, led by Mr Brian Smith of ICI, says: "The Multi-Fibre Arrangement (MFA) should be renewed in 1982 in an even tighter form than at present if longer-term confidence to invest is to be encouraged."

It is through the MFA that the growth of imports into the European Community from the developing countries is regulated. According to the report: "The industry is confident that it can compete effectively in sophisticated markets if its home market base is not eroded by low-cost imports."

The Government is also asked to ensure that no disruption of markets is caused



Mr Brian Smith: pressing for tightening of the Multi-Fibre Arrangement.

when Greece and later Spain and Portugal enter the Community.

It is conceded in the report that the wool textiles industry has been losing its reputation progressively for good design to Italian producers. However, the industry repeats complaints that many Italian manufacturers are working in the "black economy".

"Growth in the Italian clothing and textile industries has taken place in firms which, it is often claimed, officially employ only a few workers to avoid social security and pension contributions.

"Whole factories have been reported to be working on an underground basis and even the larger Italian mills are said to find it difficult to compete on prices with smaller producers who are able to reduce labour costs in this way."

"Tax evasion, under-invoicing, favourable credit schemes are other advantages, legal or otherwise, that benefit Italian producers", the report says.

The industry is looking for evidence to show that such practices lay the foundations of unfair competition, but believes that the Government should assist.

Meanwhile, the industry is attempting to recapture its former excellence in colour, innovation and design—for example, by coordinating fashion themes to promote British wool cloth at international fabric fairs.

The committee believes that 1980 could be the low point in the wool textile industry's trade cycle. It suggests that, to keep labour in the industry, unions and management should look into the question of whether there is any potential for work-sharing to reduce redundancies.

In the longer term, Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Industry, is asked to consider selective assistance for areas of high wool textile concentration.

The committee says that Sir Keith's decision to reduce the extent of the Development Areas has profound implications for the industry in West Yorkshire and Scotland. It means, for example, that in West Yorkshire, there would be no assistance under Section of the Industry Act in areas such as Bradford.

"Wool Textile EDC Progress Report 1980, available free from NEDO Books, 1 Steel House, 11 Tottil Street, London SW1H 9LJ.

John Huxley

Freight war hits British exporters

By Michael Baily

Britain's exporters to North America are paying substantially higher freight rates than their continental rivals. The continental rates are 20-30 per cent down on the British needs for a slightly longer crossing.

Laporte Industries of Luxon said yesterday: "We are paying \$80 a ton for titanium dioxide, our main export product to the United States, compared with \$53 a ton from the continent. For the present we are absorbing the extra which means we are getting a lower return than our continental competitors, but we cannot go on doing that indefinitely."

The North Atlantic West-bound Freight Association (NAWFA) declined to comment yesterday except to say that the lines were examining the situation. It arises from the withdrawal from the continental conference of America's Sea-Liner.

British warned about 'lack of imagination'

By Kenneth Owen

Technology Editor

Britain is suffering from an "imagination gap", not a technology gap, Mr Donald Rowley, deputy managing director and technical director of British Aerospace dynamics group at Bristol said last night.

Britain in general and British Aerospace in particular could be prevented from participating in some of the more futuristic proposals because of a national lack of "real will and imagination", he added.

Delivering the Barnwell memorial lecture of the Royal Aeronautical Society in Bristol, Mr Rowley said that the imagination gap was at present to a certain degree in civil aviation and in defence — but was "dangerously close" in three areas of space engineering where Britain could play a significant future role. Those were communication satellites, earth resources satellites, and space power stations.

In communication satellites, Britain's leading role in Europe could be lost, because there was no sign of direct broadcast satellites being adopted in this country. France and Germany by contrast are intending to develop such a craft.

Earth resources satellites could be useful for pollution control, monitoring oil tanker movements, measuring ocean temperatures and studying fish movements, among other things. But Britain was lagging behind other countries in Europe in expressing interest in this field.

Space power stations—geostationary satellites several square miles in area, which would convert the sun's energy into electricity and beam it to earth—could substitute for expensive oil or nuclear power stations and for major efforts such as developing North Sea and Alaskan oil. But the Department of Energy appeared uninterested.

Engineers oppose Finniston report

By Bill Johnson

The Institution of Mechanical Engineers is opposing the structure of the Engineering Authority proposed by the Finniston inquiry into the profession.

In a 42-page document submitted to the Government, it outlines areas of disagreement and agreement gathered from 73,000 British mechanical engineers, who are members of the institution. The concept of an Engineering Authority, says the institution "is one which we accept in principle, but only if it is—and is seen to be—an instrument of the profession and not one of Government."

The institution suggested that the composition should be no more than 15 members of whom eight should be nominated by the chartered institutions, five drawn from employers and academic life, and two nominated by the Privy Council which would, according to the institution, "protect the public interest".

The IME emphasizes the need for the engineering authority to be autonomous and to be financially totally independent. Such fundings therefore must be self-generated and minus any dependency on government gratuities.

The institution also believes that the Finniston committee was wrong in not harnessing the experience of the existing professional institutions in its recommended structure for the profession. Over the past 150 years they alone have taken upon themselves the responsibility of creating a competent, identifiable engineering profession. Now they are to be kept at arms length from the authority, expected to provide a number of services and the fruits of their experience, yet have little or no influence on its strategy.

Another major point expressed in the institution's submission, again in conflict with that of the Finniston committee, is its recommendation for a two-tier structure of chartered and registered engineers.

At present, the title chartered engineer is awarded to practising graduate professional engineers with the appropriate experience. According to the institution, since the publication of the Finniston report there has been a great deal of lobbying within the profession to keep the title. But the institution maintains that "the qualification of registered engineer should not be introduced."

The IME has—like the other electrical, civil and chemical professional bodies—been conducting discussions with industry on the status, training and salary of engineers.

Mr Gordon Dawson, president of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, believes that the decade in a professional engineer's life between 35 and 45 is the most underpaid.

"Engineers must be given more responsibility at an early stage in their careers and be trained in such a fashion that they can be so used," Mr Dawson said.

The institution's findings are only a small part of the debate taking place among the 180,000 professional engineers in the United Kingdom. Those diverse opinions will have to be satisfied if any of the major proposals of the Finniston inquiry is to be implemented.

Raw materials dearer

France's raw material prices index rose 3.9 per cent in February after an 8.5 per cent increase in January, the National Statistics Institute said in Paris.

Norway trade surplus

Norway's foreign trade for the first two months of 1980 showed a surplus of 388m kroner (about £29m) against a year-earlier deficit of 379m kroner, figures released by the Central Bureau of Statistics in Oslo indicate.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Monetarism: no basis for theory that economy is self regulating

From Mr Frank Hahn and Mr Robert Neild

Sir, In his critique of our article (February 25), Professor Friedman (March 3) first accuses us for some reason quite beyond us, of writing about the "Phillips Curve" (to which we made no reference, oblique or otherwise), rather than about the proposition we have to be central to monetarism, namely, that slower monetary growth will reduce inflation without causing more than voluntary and temporary unemployment. But then he goes on to say that he "entirely agrees" with our criticism of the theory on which he based that central proposition; he makes the welcome and serious admission that he has no firm theoretical basis for the empirical regularities he claims to observe.

In fact, Professor Friedman has rendered his assertions about empirical relationships over time between the quantity of money and other variables incapable of refutation. For, having stated some rather precise time lags between the change in one magnitude and another, he adds the caveat, as he has done in the past, that the time lags "vary from episode to episode". Instead of accepting his challenge "to offer empirical evidence contradicting these well-established propositions", we therefore await the day when he specifies his theory in a manner that is open to the possibility of refutation.

As an illustration of how Professor Friedman proceeds, some points should be noted about the "small sample of evidence" in his new book, of which we have referred the reader. This consists of charts showing for five countries the movement of the money stock per unit of output and consumer prices. My sources are given, though it was Professor Fried-

man who, in answering some colleagues of ours in your columns, wrote: "The paper is so carefully written that the reader is never told the source of the data used" (April 24, 1977).

As evidence that causation goes from money to prices we are told that "on most of the charts the number plotted for the quantity of money is for a year ending six months earlier than the year to which the matching price index corresponds". We can find no indication, however, as to which chart has a lag in it and which does not.

But, even so, what can we learn from the charts? First, the time lag between money per unit of output and prices in the last of the five countries, Professor Friedman invited us to reduce is two years, whereas in the book he uses nil or six months. Hence, if the charts were to show the association for which he makes such strong claims in his book, he would, on his own evidence, have met the challenge he made to us.

In fact, the charts show that money per unit of output and prices both have a strong upward trend, as we would expect. That proves nothing. Turning points are everywhere—though the reader is not told that. In fact, they are few and an association between the turning points in the two sets of figures is wholly unclear.

Of course, we accept the proposition, at the heart of the quantity theory of money, that if we compare two economies which are exactly alike except that the quantity of money in one is half that in the other, then if money wages and prices, and expected money wages and prices, are also half, and we can ignore redistributions between debtors and creditors, people in the two economies will be in exactly the same real position. But no causal law flows from that proposition.

Professor Maynard (Business

Letters, February 27), have agreed that unemployment is not all caused by workers (other than those changed jobs) refusing employment, but cause they think the real cause is to be found on the side that it is caused by the wage being too high. His argument, however, does not rest on critical analysis. The fact of monetarism and fiat money relative to the price of fiat goods does not mean that it is a lowering of "the marginal revenue product of labour" to the going "own" wage.

To take an example in everyday terms, the recent rise in the price of gold may lead to a less than proportionate rise in the price of this jewellery, since goldsmith wages have risen far less than the price of gold. But that is not mean that the value to employer of an extra he work by a goldsmith and jewellery has fallen to the point where it is no longer worth the reduced amount of gold. A goldsmith's other points have dash with by Professor I wall (Business Letters, February 29).

We concluded that "neither theoretical nor empirical support for the monetarist" proposition that the economy is self-regulating and that active employment can be relied to recover automatically the present fiscal and monetary squeeze". This exchange opinion has not "damaged" our confidence in that conclusion.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK HAHN,
ROBERT NEILD,
Faculty Board of Economics and Politics,
University of Cambridge,
Sidgwick Avenue,
Cambridge CB3 9DD.
March 7.

Rules of the game

From Mr Nils Gunnar Brander

Sir, I have followed the debate over monetarism on this page and in Business News with great interest. I think, however, that you make a mistake in presenting the matter as an argument between people who understand economics and those who do not (leading article, February 26). By all means let people like Professor Friedman supply the theoretical background to political decisions. But the acceptability or otherwise of the British people of expert solutions is surely a matter for the collective wisdom of the people's representatives exclusively. It is perhaps unnecessary to state here that economic decisions do not take place in a vacuum, as in a game of Monopoly, but that they directly affect people, not all of whom will benefit from a free play of market forces, even in the long run.

The debate is, of course, really between the fundamentally opposed political philosophies of collectivism versus individualism. Tory and Labour represent the former, in the shape of hierarchical inequality, an egalitarianism, respectively, whereas Liberals in the Ben Thomme sense (like Margaret Thatcher) preach the latter. The decision we have to make (collectively) is how we can, for the benefit of all, utilise most effectively the efforts of the individual to further his own ends.

If people are allowed to operate freely in the markets for inputs and outputs, I think they must at the same time be firmly constrained by a common moral obligation—to observe the spirit of rules governing the conduct of our daily lives and affairs. The unchecked selfishness of individuals, or even worse, that of strong groups operating as "collective" individuals, merely leads to destructive battles over what loot there is to be had. The more the individual's exertions are balanced by a strong Christian ethic or perhaps more simply by an unequivocal adherence to fair play, the more freely he can operate without detriment to his fellow man.

Professor Friedman's laissez-faire evangelism is certainly welcome in a society which is being strangled by conditions that discourage personal initiative, but there must be a political and ethical consensus shared by a great majority of the people about the rules before start of play. Otherwise someone is going to be badly hurt.

Yours faithfully,
NILS GUNNAR BRANDER,
Bankside,
St Margaret's Farm,
South Darenth,
near Dartford,
Kent
March 4.

Central Statistical Office 'estimates'

From Mr B. J. Wratten

Sir, Payments in the black economy are bound by their nature to be unrecorded, and there is no reason to believe that the Central Statistical Office estimate that these payments amount to "little more than 3 per cent of the total national economy" (Business News, March 5) is more reliable than the "7 per cent of gross domestic product" estimated by Sir William Pile when he was chairman of the Inland Revenue.

Few of us regard the filling-in of government questionnaires as our favourite exercise, and we feel no strong urge to ensure the accuracy of government statistics, particularly when a fully revealing answer to the question, "How much did you spend on...?" might point to undercover receipts of our own.

which have been omitted from the income side of the same form. Yet the CSO, apparently relies on these answers in compiling its estimates.

The CSO has an honourable record of publishing figures unbiased by political influence, and this reputation has only been slightly dented by its unfortunate acquiescence in the introduction last year of the tax and price index for current political motives. But we should be wary of assuming that its estimates "in a sphere where the term 'anybody's guess' would be more fitting."

Yours faithfully,
BASIL J. WRATTEN
Chells, Hackwood Road,
Basingstoke,
Hampshire,
March 6.

Unnecessary

From Mr P. C. Bapley

Sir, Should not alcohol and tobacco be removed from the list of commodities considered to constitute the cost of living? They are not necessary for life, and it is increasingly agreed that they are a danger to health. If they were excluded, how much difference would it make to the inflation figure? And, even more interesting, how would that figure have looked over the past 10 years if they had been excluded?

Furthermore, the prices of these commodities go up arbitrarily in that Chancellor of the Exchequer use them for increasing revenue, so that they add an arbitrary element to the apparent cost of living.

Ought not the Chancellor to consider this? You would render a service if you would ascertain and publish the figures.

Yours etc,
P. C. BAPLEY
107 North Street,
St. Andrews,
Fife.

Farming support

From Mr Wynne Godley

Sir, In his letter about the cost of EEC membership, Mr Howell (Business News March 7) incorrectly treats the decline in support for British agriculture from the Exchequer as an offset to the net contribution we make to the EEC budget. He has ignored the fact that during the period covered by his figures Britain has moved from a system under which agriculture is supported by the taxpayer via the Exchequer to one under which it is supported directly by the consumer. The decline in the cost of support of British agriculture by the Exchequer has in fact been much more than offset by an increase in the cost to the consumer which Mr Howell's figures do not show.

Yours faithfully,
WYNNE GODLEY,
Department of Applied Economics,
Sidgwick Avenue,
Cambridge CB3 9DE.
March 7.

Reaction to safety factors of AGR's

From Mr G. Gouvras

Sir, Professor G. Ronald Bragg and others (Mar propose the adoption of a United Kingdom of advanced gas-cooled system (AGR) for safety economic reasons. Ho their letter contains errors, which unfortunately are not proving the ca the AGRs.

Although AGRs are only safer than press water reactors (PWRs), statement that the critics a PWR increases as the moderator turns to ste incorrect. Their claim of thermal efficiency of bar per cent (supported by a letter by Mr Powys-Lybbe on Decemb is also incorrect—in the tries of the EEC, for ex half the operating achieved during 1978 a d efficiency exceeding 3 cent, with the rest figures above 30 per cent. Referring to taken into ac By contrast, our AGR Hinkley Point B and E ston attained 34.8 per ce 36 per cent respectively, the same year, well below design efficiency. If on siders only important energy availability facts time utilization factor th picture is totally revea favour of the PWRs.

With regard to capit it would be easier to es the figure for a PWR b British safety standards provide a minimum figu an AGR. It is also very that the last figure will higher.

Yours faithfully,
G. GOUVRAS,
35 Lawrence Road,
Pinner,
Middlesex,
March 7.

An asset to a block of flats

From Mr C. B. Tonkin

Sir, I should like to re the article by Mr Rone ing in your issue dena ruary 2, concerning flac.

In that article he comment on the dangers face an incoming tens relation to the level of charges that may be p. What he does not say, ever, is that the pruden chaser should ensure th building in which he is to buy his flat has the of a reasonable sinking order that he does not the problem envisaged i part of the article.

A properly consi reserve fund which is b an independent trustee asset to a block of flat tects the lessees from an annual service charge on a graph would not collect costs and inv means that the building maintained emi regular intervals.

C. B. TONKIN,
Holding and Management
58 Paddington Street,
London W1M 3SR.
February 13.

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Overheads cut into UCM margins

These proportions seem to be fairly constant, though pressure on the leather business could cause it to fall as a proportion. Full-year pretax profits in 1979 were £3.30m. The tax charge in the most recent half was £1.05m, only a little more than in the same period of the previous financial year.

Sharp setbacks among leaders

In stores, the full-year figure from F. W. Woolworth held the most attention, with figures at the upper end of most expectations. The shares rose 2p to 70p. In the me-

Some 20 million shares

to buy, but the spec-
cator rumored to be the
ceptant of a bid from
was uncharged at 7 1/2%.

Electricals had another
pressing time--and, altho
little selling was again
possible, the second round
under some heavy pres-
Racal remained on a k
edge as the share price d
another 1p to 208p--8p
at the danger level when
the market would be fo
to take cash for the
GEC asked another 5p to 3
but speculative interest bo
MAM's 4p to 140p and W
head 2p to 190p. Hoover
marked confidence followi
the first financial
port, rising 5p to 140p.

With still no firm so
to the end of the steel s
engineers began to drift

PHILIPS

Simply years ahead.

The move is the latest in the battle to keep the nervous factory—the as largest local employer—closing.

But by the time of the meeting, on April 24, W. local officials had been under ownership. The takeover from Mr. Graham Ferry Lacey's newly-formed Ferri Investments has a final ci date of March 20 and he said, he intends to support current management.

At the time of W. results, chairman Mr. R. East said the closure of nervous and the transfer of duction to Armcorde in cashire, would reduce prion costs. This would a the case if Armcorde w ferred to the EverFlex factu

Rising anger in the farm belt

There is no doubt at all in the trading **h** and at the Chicago Board of Trade **ro**, it suspicions of farmers, that the government to assume the trading houses' contracts the embargo was announced. Not assume these would have been disastrous trade was collectively long 650m bushe grain and would have had to sell ma amounts. Some exporters would have forced to take actions amounting to flar cellation of billions of bushels of purchases from country and terminal elev cooperatives and other country sellers.

The embargo decision may add \$5,000 United States government budget spending it will hurt the U.S. economy. Now

Traded options activity continued to be quiet in a relatively dull session with the total number of contracts at 540, an increase of 57 from the previous day. Rascal continued to show the most activity with 118 contracts, with Courtaulds contributing 96 as a second. BP's figures, due today, resulted in 58 contracts and RTZ was second closely with 53.

On the traditional options switch where there was moderate activity a call was arranged for Furness Withy as further news about Mr C. Y. Tung's bid was awaited and there was a good deal of activity in the Phlcom. A "put" was arranged in Hawker Siddeley, while Doubles were completed in Rensburg and UDT.

There isn't a scrap of evidence to support the allegations. The image is also too indistinct for any of government plans to start formal investigations. But the trading companies are on the defensive—they are worried about their image and, more importantly, about the possibility of legislation being promoted to clip their wings.

The image of the companies has been badly tarnished ever since 1972 when the Russians quietly signed vast contracts with the United States to buy grain with the big firm, which became known as the "Great Grain Robbery". Now grain sales to the USSR are again at centre stage, the markets are unsettled, the farmers and the grain and trading companies are a popular target.

Bunge, Cargill, Dreyfus and Cargill are the biggest trading companies and they probably account for more than 40 per cent of United States grain exports to the Soviet Union a year. Cargill alone accounted for 20 per cent of President Carter's estimate of 17.50 tonnes that the President had blocked for Russia.

Cargill is a commodities conglomerate involved in all aspects of marketing, transportation, processing and distribution of grain, oil, scrap metal, insurance and a vast array

The Department of Agriculture still sees United States agricultural foreign trade rising by \$3,000,000 to \$19,000,000 this year.

The Russians had become significant buyers for the United States with their purchases rising from \$100 million in 1970 to would have been 25m tonnes in the current year. The trading houses believe that if embargo is lifted soon, then the Russians be swiftly back in United States market there in years in the trade that the emb would stimulate Soviet efforts to make their livestock industry much more efficient and stronger links to non-United States producers.

Farmers had hoped for higher prices as the embargo as depressing prices. They want about the general export outlook and incomes at a time of sharply rising production costs and they believe the trading houses managed to pressure the government to open grain trade has suffered. If 1980 proves a bad year for United States farmers, and embargo decision was hardly an encouragement, then pressures could well mount on trading companies.

Frank V

FINANCIAL NEWS

One-for-six scrip from Sandvik

A one-for-six scrip issue is being made by Sandvik, the Swedish iron and steel giant which is quoted on the London and Stockholm exchanges. In 1979, pretax profits rose from 12.1m kr to 293.5m kr (about 11m) on sales up from 141.3m kr to 6,640.4m kr. The dividend, per share, is being lifted from 6.5 to 8 kr. Profits per share are estimated at 36 kr (against 29 kr). Last year group order intake exceeded 5,750m kr to 980m kr and investments are up from 360m kr to 533m including 160m kr for com-

International

pany acquisitions, compared with 1978's 54m kr. Price rises accounted for 9 per cent of the sales increase, against 7 per cent in 1978, while volume growth accounted for 4 per cent, which is double the 1978 figure. The results for 1980 are expected to be in the same range as 1979's.

Aran Energy rights issue proposed

The board of Aran Energy is proposing to raise approximately 18.6m by the issue of 64,591 new ordinary shares on a basis of two new ordinary shares for every five held at 4p. The present capital of Aran is sufficient for the issue, so the board is also proposing to increase the authorised share capital from 18.6m to 18.6m. The creation of five million ordinary shares of 18.6p each. Part of the proceeds of the issue will be used to enable the company to fund its share of drilling costs to be incurred by Aran/EP during 1980 and 1981. Aran estimates that its share of the cost of three wells will be about 18.6m.

Wereldhave profits rise

Wereldhave, the Dutch property group, has reported 1979 profits of £124.3m (£5.5m) on sales of £1,243.3m. Profits per share rose to 18.6p from 15.5p in 1978. The board is recommending a dividend of 12.5p (£1.42) in cash together with 3p in scrip. The dividend is being paid in cash and scrip. The dividend is being paid in cash and scrip. The dividend is being paid in cash and scrip.

SNIA expects £18m loss

SNIA Viscom SPA of Milan has reported a 6 per cent rise in sales to 760 billion lire, but a 10 per cent fall in profits to 150 billion lire. The company is expected to suffer a loss for 1979 of about 180 billion lire (about £18m). An expected loss of this size is given rise to speculation that SNIA will devalue its capital, currently at 647 billion lire, but a spokesman said no decision has been taken on this.

CIC shows 39pc increase

Credit Industrielle et Commerciale (CIC), of France, a bank company of a private bank group, has posted a net profit for 1979 of Fr59.16m (about 16m) up 39.3 per cent on the Fr42.5m for the 1978 period. The bank pointed out that a 1978 figure included a non-recurring capital gain of 15.5m. CIC said it intends to increase its 1979 dividend payout to Fr8.50 net per share from the Fr7.50 paid for 1978. It said that the group's results, which will not be made known until May 23, will show a growth.

Guthrie Bhd up 178 pc

Guthrie Bhd's group 1979 profit, after tax and extraordinary items, rose 178.3 per cent to 58.6m (Singapore) on a year earlier. Guthrie said its 1978 profit was 16.5m. The dramatic rise in after-tax profit includes a 15.6m extraordinary item, the sale of the group's 50 per cent stake in Guthrie Boussed Shipping Agency of Singapore. Operating profit rose 56.7 per cent to 114.4m, on a 15.4 per cent rise in turnover, to 265m. The group is recommending a final dividend of 8 cents a share.

-Up plans to buy bottler

Soft drinks company 7-up of Louisville has announced that it plans to buy the city's oldest soft-drink bottler with franchises in eastern Missouri and southern Iowa. Taylor also owns IBC Root and Taylor Beverages, which packages soft drinks for other bottlers under contracts.

Business appointments

Init trust committee

lost for Sir

Boyle

Lawrence Boyle has joined

committee of Pension Fund Property Unit

Mr Eric J. Holt has been

appointed director of London

es for the Pullman Kellings

sup.

Mr J. W. English has been

de a director of Casper Pipe

vice.

Mr Ken Hill is now chairman

of the Lawrence & Son, Mr Colin

has been made a director.

Mr J. Dent has become a direc-

tor of Pirelli General Cable Works.

Mr J. M. Heggadon has joined

a Kom River Company, as sales

marketing director.

Mr John H. Critch, previously

managing director of Heman

Forward Trust Group up 24pc

Forward Trust Group, the newly-established holding company for the Midland Bank's finance house activities, yesterday announced profits for 1979 of £12.2m, a 24 per cent increase on the previous year's comparable activities.

The results represent the figures of Forward Trust, Midland Montagu Leasing and Griffin & Co. between them cover instalment credit, leasing and factoring. After tax credits of £21.1m last year compared to £22.6m, the net attributable profit is up from £47.7m to £52.3m. Mr John Harris, the group's chief executive, yesterday pointed out that a change in the basis of accounting for leasing activities had boosted 1979 profits by £5m as against £1.6m previously. The results also include 14 months of activities of Forward Trust.

Int Timber sells

Belize firm for £2m

J. G. Glickson & Son, a subsidiary of International Timber Corporation, has sold its subsidiary, Belize Estate & Produce, operating in Belize, Central America, to Minter Naval Stores (Belize), owned by Mr W. F. Belote of Georgia, United States. Belize Estate owns about 700,000 acres of forest land in Belize. The company produces and exports hardwood lumber and acts as agent for numerous United Kingdom based companies. The consideration for the sale is \$4.9m (£2.2m) of which \$1m has been received, with the balance payable over the next five years with interest at 8 per cent per annum. The sale is based on the balance

The company said the group's new orders continued rising in 1980 and sales this year should reach around 7,500m kr. Investments are calculated at 550m kr, of which a little more than half will be in Sweden, compared with 208m kr last year. Most investments are for the cement-carbide sector. This year's earnings are expected to be similar to those in 1979, and although price increases in certain sectors will not cover increased costs, this can be remedied to some extent by increased production and improved productivity.

Overseas Union Bank

Overseas Union Bank reports group after-tax profit of \$21.3m (Singapore) in the year ended December 31, 1979—up 29.1 per cent from 1978.

The bank also proposed a one-for-five scrip issue—and a one-for-five rights issue, with the latter at a price of \$2 (Singapore) a share. The two issues will be based on existing issued share capital of \$102.7m (Singapore). OUB also reports a first and final dividend of 12 per cent less tax, unchanged from a year earlier.

The company said both the bank and the group should be able to improve their earnings in 1980 from 1979's levels and maintain the same rate of dividend and enlarged capital—A. P. Dow Jones.

Triangle Industries

In 1979, Triangle Industries' net income reached \$3.34m (or \$1.52 per share), compared with 1978's income from continuing operations of \$2.05m (\$4 cents). In 1978, income from discontinued operations of \$393,000, plus a tax credit of \$202,000, made a final net income of \$2.65m (or \$1.21 a share). Sales reached \$290.91m for 1979, against 1978's \$255.2m. Net income for 1979 reflects the write-off of goodwill related to the discontinuation of the copper fittings product line, decreasing net earnings by \$197,000 or 9 cents a share.

The demand for Triangle's steel and copper fabricated products and co-ordinated equipment lines was strong in 1979. Mr Edward J. Simmons, chairman and president said.

"This momentum has continued into 1980. Based on our current operating performance, we would have been entitled to under the basic offer. But Hepworth is limiting its share offer to 3.45 million shares and a scaling-down system will come into operation if more Turner shareholders opt for the alternative. The new Hepworth shares will not qualify for the interim dividend for the year to August 31, 1980.

Manila Electric Co

The Manila Electric Company of the Philippines is raising a \$47m syndicated loan over 10 years, according to a spokesman for the Indian Overseas Bank, which is participating in the loan.

The loan carries interest of 7 per cent over London Interbank offered rates for the first four years, and one per cent above LIBOR for the remaining six. It will be used to finance an expansion programme.

Unisec Group

Pretax profit for the Unisec Group was \$3.95m for 1979 against \$3.39m. Dividends from trading subsidiaries \$2.28m (\$1.80m). Distributable earnings are \$5.07m (\$5.01m). Earnings per share are 14.4 cents (11.9).

Union Bank of ME

Union Bank of the Middle East reports profits for the 12 months to December 31, 1979, after transfer to loan loss provision and inter reserve, of UAE dirhams 33.5m (\$8.9m) against 23.5m dirhams (\$6.2m) for the previous nine months. The bank proposes a one-for-four scrip issue to expand its capital base.

Receivers appointed

at Fertleman

Mr Guy Parsons and Mr William Ratford, partners in chartered accountants Peat, Marwick, Mitchell, have been appointed Joint Receivers of B. Fertleman and Sons.

The Receivers say that they are continuing to carry on the group's furniture manufacturing business whilst they undertake an urgent review of its viability.

Britannic Assurance

pays more

Britannic Assurance is lifting its total gross dividend for 1979 from 14.7p to 17p. The company made a profit on long-term business of £2.31m, against £1.81m. General branch profits were up from £3,000 to £213,000.

Over £700,000 pretax

at Lambert Howarth

On turnover up from £14.11m to £15.02m, pretax profits of Lancashire-based footwear makers, Lambert Howarth, rose from £645,000 to £724,000 in 1979. With earnings per share up from 10.6p to 12.6p, the total gross dividend is being raised from 5.06p to 5.8p.

Margins squeezed

at Lookers

At the annual meeting of Lookers, the car distributors and engineers, shareholders

Rank Organisation



Rank Industries of Australia was now trading profitably and the management were confident of meeting budgeted profit for the year. Mr Harry Smith, chairman of the Rank Organisation, said at the annual general meeting yesterday.

Mr Smith is pictured (left above) with Mr Russell Evans, group managing director. Mr Smith said progress had been made in improving trading profit during the last four

years. "I believe we can maintain a steadily rising trend in profitability over the next four years", he added.

"I am confident we will perform well this year in the light of prevailing conditions. Once conditions become more normal, particularly in regard to the rates of inflation and interest charges, we are well prepared to achieve a rapid improvement in both group profits and the rate of return on our investments."

Hepworth make £9m agreed bid for Turner

By Rosemary Unsworth

J. Hepworth, the tailor, has made an agreed £9m bid for the Leicester-based footwear, hosiery and handbag group, W. & E. Turner, whose shares were suspended two days ago at 49p, while the details were worked out.

The terms of the offer are either 87p cash for every Turner share or shareholders may take Hepworth shares valued at 72p up to the cash limit they would have been entitled to under the basic offer. But Hepworth is limiting its share offer to 3.45 million shares and a scaling-down system will come into operation if more Turner shareholders opt for the alternative. The new Hepworth shares will not qualify for the interim dividend for the year to August 31, 1980.

The Turner board and their families, who control more than 50 per cent of the group, have irrevocably accepted for 52.1 per cent of the shares and have unanimously recommended the offer.

Hepworth intends to continue to operate the Turner business from Leicester. Turner has 145 retail outlets in England and Wales.

The 750 Turner employees will have their interests and pensions safeguarded. When the offer is declared unconditional, Turner chairman, Mr Kenneth Bowdler and Mr Trevor Morgan, trading subsidiaries £2.28m (\$1.80m). Distributable earnings are \$5.07m (\$5.01m). Earnings per share are 14.4 cents (11.9).

Turner's 1979 results showed a 22 per cent improvement in pretax profits to £1.67m on a turnover increase of £3.2m to £16m. In view of the agreed offer, the board has not recommended a dividend. Last year it paid a total of 2p gross.

Thomas Robinson, Engineers and machine makers, Thomas Robinson and Son pushed pretax profits up from £1.05m to £1.2m—record—in 1979. Turnover rose from £7.76m to £9.75m. Total gross payment, 6.89p (5.44p).

Maynards rises by over a third at pretax level

By Our Financial Staff

Maynards, the confectionery group, has turned in a 36 per cent profits increase in its first half on sales up by 11 per cent. But the underlying trading profit increase, before charging depreciation, falls to 1.4 per cent.

The pre-tax figure of £1.65m, against £1.2m last time, is boosted by an exceptional item of £497,000, compared with £26,000 in the last half-year. This relates to the profit made on a sale and leaseback arrangement on the shop in Worthing.

Stripping out this and the depreciation charge of £236,000, against £186,000 last time, the trading profit figure is £1.4m against £1.37m on sales up from £21.7m to £24.15m.

After allowing for the fact that the period covers 26 weeks compared with 27 weeks last time, the sales increase does include a small volume improvement. This was in spite of the fact that confectionery sales for the whole industry have been down as a result of increased VAT.

On its manufacturing side, Maynards is mainly involved in sugar confectionery which has

suffered a worse downturn than chocolate. But the company maintained its market share, says chairman Mr Peter Salmon, with the help of improved packaging and marketing. In addition the factory modernization is nearly complete, so "the prospects for increased profits are encouraging once the demand for confectionery recovers".

Overall sales in retailing grew by 13 per cent, but higher costs and price-cutting by competitors hit margins. Expansion and modernization programmes are expected to contribute additional profits in due course. Toy retailing showed a "satisfactory" increase in sales and profits.

In the current quarter, sales are ahead of last year but, higher costs and price-cutting by competitors hit margins. Expansion and modernization programmes are expected to contribute additional profits in due course. Toy retailing showed a "satisfactory" increase in sales and profits.

The interim dividend is 2.68p gross, against 2.42p last time.

Montford delivers promised profits rise

By Philip Robinson

Montford (Knitting Mills), the Leicester-based socks to pull-overs group, yesterday delivered the 70 per cent profits increase and near doubled dividend promised during its successful fight against a takeover from textile group David Dixon last year.

Trading up from the cheap imports market in its three knitted garment factories which produce pullovers, sweaters, children's wear and some ladies' clothes, helped lift pretax profits 72 per cent to £909,000 and the total dividend is raised from 5.60p to 9.99p with an 8.1p final payment. Turnover was 18 per cent ahead at £11.9m.

But the group are cautious about the current year and say

that although the order book is satisfactory, it is down on last year.

Deputy chairman, Mr Alan Norman, said: "Given reasonable level of support from major customers in the second half the company can produce satisfactory results for the current year, although these are unlikely to show the sort of percentage increases we are reporting at the moment."

The group's biggest customer is Woolworth's. Mr Norman said: "We are expressing this word of caution because it would take only a couple of months for any fall-off of consumer spending in the shops to work back to our factories."

Montford's main profit earner

is its socks. The group say that they have maintained their leading position and steps taken to increase quality of their garments and lift them out of the "cheap" category for the past three years they have been hit by imports from low-cost countries, were beginning to show through.

Last year Montford fought a hard and what the City believed to be an acrimonious battle to keep David Dixon from taking control.

During the fight, the private Leicester-based group Palma Textiles—run by millionaire, Mr Peter Bailey, Europe's biggest children's sock maker—entered the stage and bought Montford shares in the market.

Despite an increased offer for Montford and an unsuccessful complaint to the Takeover Panel that Mr Bailey's buying represented a commercial interest, the Dixon bid eventually lapsed.

For the City, it has never really been made clear why Mr Bailey chose that moment to buy Montford shares, of which he owned none before Dixon launched the bid.

Mr Bailey still owns the 18.83 per cent he bought during that time, but Mr Norman said last night that they had had no approaches from him. "We are not in the same sort of business. He makes children's socks and we make men's socks," he added.

SKF

Financial statement

SKF Group sales amounted to 11,062 million Swedish kronor for the year ending 31 December 1979, which represents a rise of 16 per cent over the previous year's figure. Volume sales accounted for a third of the rise, while both steel and bearing sectors increased their market shares.

Group profit more than doubled to 475 million kronor before exchange differences and extraordinary items. All main product sectors contributed profits to Group income, SKF Steel pulling itself out of the red with a 100 million kronor improvement.

The year's results reflect the positive effects of ongoing rationalization, greater capacity utilization and intensified marketing. There is every reason to believe that this combination will also make it possible to achieve a significant improvement in Group income during 1980.

The Board and Managing Director propose an increased dividend from 4.50 kronor to 6.00 kronor per share.

The Annual General Meeting will be held in Gothenburg, Sweden, on 30 May 1980.

Mkr—million Swedish kronor	Financial year to 31 Dec 1979	Financial year to 31 Dec 1978
Group net sales	Mkr 11,062 100.0	Mkr 9,533 100.0
Other operating revenue	133	97
Operating revenue	11,215	9,630
Cost of goods sold	7,701 69.6	6,692 70.2
Selling, administrative and technical development expenses	2,173 19.7	1,949 20.4
Operating income before depreciation	1,341 12.1	989 10.4
Depreciation	465 4.2	446 4.7
Operating income after depreciation	876 7.9	543 5.7
Financial income and expenses—net	—401 3.6	—336 3.5
Income before exchange differences	475 4.3	207 2.2
Reserved for exchange losses	—15	—25
Accounting translation differences	—137	—134
Extraordinary income and expenses—net	—39	33
Income before provisions and taxes	264 2.4	81 0.8
Provisions	21	169
Taxes	—149	—141
Minority interest	2	—8
Net income	138 1.2	101 1.1
Capital expenditure, Mkr	407	412
Average number of employees	53,994	54,468
Earnings per Parent Company share, Skr	14.15	4.90
Group sales by product sector*	Mkr % Mkr %	
Rolling bearings	8,200 69.2	7,240 70.7
Steel	1,840 15.5	1,470 14.4
Cutting tools	500 4.2	450 4.4
Other products	1,320 11.1	1,070 10.5
Total	11,860 100.0	10,250 100.0

*Figures include internal deliveries between product sectors.

11.15.50



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Leader

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